



Love Letter

No. 199

Love Token Society Newsletter

February 2002



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Love Letter Layout/Design

Mary Hammel
Manhattan, KS

Tokens and Valentines

by Ed Fleischmann - reprinted from *Numismatic Scrapbook*, February 1976

February is synonymous with Valentine's Day and a feature on Love Tokens seems appropriate for such a day. It seems especially appropriate that most of the featured Love Tokens were supplied by Ed Valentine.

Though Love Tokens have a relatively short history, as we measure time, the history of Valentine's Day can be traced to ancient times. The Romans celebrated a festival for lovers that they called the Feast of Lupercalia. Young people chose partners by drawing names from a box. The partners then exchanged gifts as a sign of affection. The young people often continued to enjoy one another's company long after the festival and many such courtships ended in marriage.

In more recent times, Love Tokens were engraved by jewelers and watchmakers in local stores. A greater number were made by practicing artisans at county fairs. The simplest was a coin, smoothed on one side (usually the reverse so the date remained), and engraved with the initials or name of the giver. The more elaborate Love Tokens embodied a scene of particular importance to the couple along with the initials.

The most elaborate Love Tokens of all were those that were cut-out, enameled or had gold applied on a silver coin.

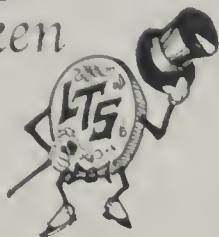
The cut-out Love Tokens were usually made from a silver coin, smoothed on both sides, and then sawed out leaving only the intertwining initials surrounded by a circle. The initials and encircling ring were then elaborately engraved.



Upper left is FRED on an 1892 Colombia 50 centavos, lower left is HARRY, in five-color enamel on a 1733 Spanish real. Top center is EDDIE in relief on a Canadian dime. Center is RACHEL and two stylish birds on an 1886 dime. Bottom center is MC in relief on a Canadian dime. Upper right is LENA and a bird on an 1887 dime. At lower right is BERT on a three-cent silver coin.

(Part of the Ed Valentine collection)

Tip of the Token



♥ To the following LTS members and friends who contributed articles and letters to the newsletter in 2001:

- ♥ Gail Brett Levine
- ♥ Sheila Petelis
- ♥ Carol Harmes
- ♥ George Bilodeau, Jr.
- ♥ Robert Higdem
- ♥ Sid Gale
- ♥ Ernie Turnes
- ♥ Pat Hammond
- ♥ Bob Wester
- ♥ Jamie Spikes
- ♥ Barb Newhouse
- ♥ David E. Schenkman
- ♥ Pearson Andrew
- ♥ Paul Harthoorn
- ♥ Steve Tompkins
- ♥ Jeff Siptak

♥ To Mary Hammel, LTS graphic artist for six excellent, graphically enhanced newsletters in 2001.

♥ To LTS officers for continued, dedicated service to the organization in 2001.

Add send contributions to LTS newsletter to your "to do" list in 2002! We want to see your name listed next year!

From the Treasurer

Well, I finally found the time to work on the directory. Thanks to the help of Bob and Barbara Newhouse and Mary Hammel, we got it published and I am in the process of preparing them to be mailed. I mailed the dues invoices with it. If you haven't sent your dues payment in yet, please do it now. Canadian members- please send Postal Money Orders payable in U.S. funds. If you exhibited love tokens in an ANA-sponsored coin show, please advise. A club member's dues are waived if she/he exhibited love tokens in a major show.

- *Sidney R. Gale*

Wanted

Love tokens with the names Peggy, Melinda, Rob, or Amy. Willing to trade for initials or names that you need. Ernie Turnes, eturnes@juno.com or (410) 879-8983.

Financial Statement

General Funds

Balance as of November 30, 2001 \$6,200.44

Receipts

New Members (2)	\$20.00
Membership Dues 2002	\$50.00
Membership Dues 2003	\$10.00
Interest {Bank Account}	Nov \$8.50
	Dec \$7.56

Total Receipts \$96.06

Subtotal \$6,296.50

Expenses

Check #1014 - FUN Dues	\$15.00
Check #1015 - Robert Newhouse (LTS #198)	\$213.76
Mary Hammel- Graphic Art	\$60.00
Kinko's	\$143.42
Postage	\$10.34
Check #1016 - Robert Newhouse	
Graphic Art for Directory	\$100.00
Check #1017 - Kwik Kopy	\$163.88
Directory Printing	

Total Expenses \$492.647

Balance as of January 31, 2002 \$5,803.86

Permanent Fund

Audubon Savings and Loan Association	
1 year certificate of deposit	\$655.55

Membership Report

Membership As of Nov. 30, 2001	214
New Members	2
Reinstated Member	0
Deceased	0
Membership As of Nov. 30, 2001	216

Sidney R. Gale - Secretary /Treasurer

Welcome New Members!

#1026 Joseph Rossi III
415 Wolcott Rd.
Wolcott, CT 06716

#1027 Ira Rezak
P.O. Box Box 660
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Note from the Webmaster

I hope everyone has had a chance to visit our new website. Please visit it at: www.lovetokensociety.org. I am definitely looking forward to receiving your ideas to improve it.



President's Message Carol Harmes

Love tokens are coins which have been smoothed down on one or two sides and then hand engraved. Statements like this have been used repeatedly to describe what love tokens are. However, the subject is a little more complicated and cannot be defined easily in a single sentence.

First let's address the term smoothed down. Most love tokens coins have been shaved flat and then engraved, but some are simply engraved on the original coin. Typically the engraving is restricted to the fields with the coin details left intact; however, occasionally engravings are sandwiched over portraits.

Liberty Seated dollars engraved in the 1850's and 1860's generally have field engraving. In fact, it is very difficult to find this type of coin with the entire coin smoothed and engraved. Similarly, early Liberty Seated half-dollars were candidates for field engraving. Smaller denomination coins did not have large open areas, so this style of engraving was not practical.

The belief that one or both sides of the love token must be engraved also has its exception. The third side of the coin, the rim, can also be engraved on love tokens, although this is quite rare. The English two pence is extra thick and has a very wide rim, so edge engraving is particularly suited to these coins. Amazingly, a rim as small as an Indian Head penny can also be engraved, although I have seen only one example. The linear shape of the rim lends itself to a sentence format or names and dates signifying marital unions or birth announcements.

Every love token is handmade and unique. Therefore, it is difficult to categorize them as a group, making a simple definition impossible. The individuality, variety, and intricacies of design on love tokens are the very qualities which make them so endearing.

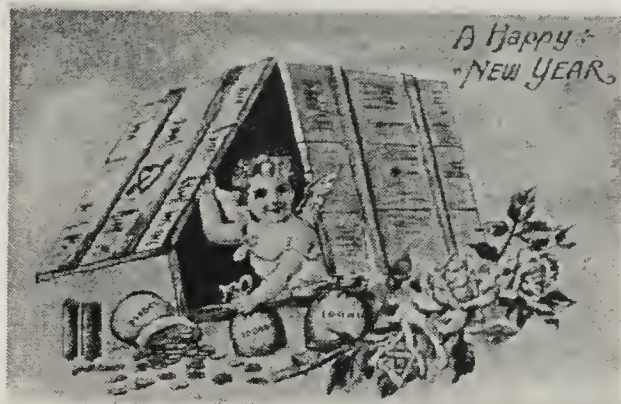


This purse pin is from the Ed Valentine collection. It has the initials TGE engraved on a \$5 gold piece.

For the Love of Money

By Carol Harmes

The Victorian postcards pictured (circa 1908) link love with money. As seen in new Year's postcards, angels bring money, symbolizing a wish for prosperity in the coming year. Sore trouble for Cupid postcard elicits further questions. Has Cupid been bought off? Is this the age-old choice of marriage for love or money? In this case it appears that money may have won. Remember that love tokens are the only acceptable way to combine love and money.



Tokens and Valentines continued from page 1

Enameled tokens were exactly as the name implies, very elaborately engraved coins that were painted with as many as five colors of enamel.

The applied gold Love Tokens are probably the most eye-catching of all. One or both sides of a coin were smoothed out. Initials were then cut out of gold (often gold coins) and silver-soldered to the smooth surface of the coin. Some of the applied gold tokens had each of the three initials made out of a different colored gold and each of the initials were intertwined with the other initials in the same fashion as the engraved initials.

Presumably the more elaborate Love Tokens were commissioned by the more affluent, or more ardent, suitors.

A wide variety of jewelry was made from these Love Tokens. Necklaces and bracelets of course. Also, watch fobs, vest chains, brooches, shirt studs, and key rings. Any

article of jewelry imaginable could be made up of Love Tokens.

Anyone would have cause to wonder about the true intention of the person who had his message of love engraved on a counterfeit coin! Ed Valentine's collection of Love Tokens includes one with an L engraved on a counterfeit 1856 dime.



*Three gold dollars make up the brooch engraved July 20th/BME/1884.
(From the Ed Valentine collection)*

The Other Woman

By Ernie Turnes

Love token collectors sometimes wonder about the people whose initials or names are engraved on their coins. Who was the lady who received this coin with the beautiful inscription?

In most cases we will never know. But in some cases we do know some things about the other woman, the woman whose portrait appears on the obverse of the coin. And she is there most of the time; as many love tokens are engraved on the reverse.

While the great majority of love tokens are made from circulating coins showing that too-small-to-see-the-face Ms. Seated Liberty; many are made from coins depicting a lady whose features are very recognizable. But who is she?

If you are fortunate enough to own love tokens made from Draped Bust coins; introduced on dollars dated 1795 and continued (with some changes) through half cents dated 1809; your coin carries the image of Anne Willing Bingham. She was a lady from a successful Philadelphia family well known for its prosperity and the politics of its members. According to numismatic author Walter Breen; The portrait of Ms. Liberty is after a drawing by Gilbert Stuart; modeled by Mrs. William Bingham (nee Anne Willing).

If your love tokens are made from small cents dated 1859 to 1909 they have/had the image of an Indian princess. The design is believed to be based on the likeness of the daughter of the coin's designer; James Longacre.

If you have engraved Barber dimes, quarters or half dollars; the other woman is Anna Willess Williams; who is also on the Morgan dollar; but Mr. Barber gave her shorter hair. (Another source reports that engraver Charles Barber's design is based on several versions of a motif that his father William Barber had suggested while chief engraver at the mint).

If your collection includes love tokens made from Winged Liberty Head (Mercury) dimes; your coin pictures Elsie Kachel Stevens. The wife of celebrated poet Wallace Stevens; she was a tenant of the creator of the Mercury dime; Adolph Alexander Weinman. Because of her attractive features; Mr. Weinman asked the 27 year-old Mrs. Stevens to sit for a portrait bust in 1913. It was from this bust that her profile became the portrait on the 1916-1945 dime. (Mr. Weinman gave the bust to Mrs. Stevens but it was subsequently lost and remains missing to this day.)

All lovely ladies; and therefore suitable subjects for what we call love tokens.



Tokens and Valentines continued from page 3

Also in the Valentine collection is a candidate for the oldest Love Token, with HARRY executed in five color enamel, on a 1733 Spanish one-real silver coin.

Foreign coins were represented by FRED on an 1892 Colombian 50 centavos; EDDIE, in relief, on a Canadian dime; MC, also in relief, and also on a Canadian dime; NC on a Russian 20 kopecks of the 1906-1913 type; RG on an 1871 era German medalet; JMD on a Canadian large cent; THEO on a Canadian dime; PFW on an 1885 Hong Kong five cents; and GWC on a British penny.

At upper left is RK in gold overlay on an 1877 quarter. Top center is HJH on a gold-plated 1883 nickel. Upper right is WA in two-color enamel on an 1888 quarter. Lower left is ADS on an 1814 Bust type dime. Lower center is an L on a counterfeit 1856 dime. At lower right is JD on an 1885 threepence of Great Britain.

(From the Ed Valentine collection)



Some Random Thoughts About the Hobby

By Ernie Turnes

• I'd be interested to learn the different ways that LTS members put together their collections. Like many people, I look for initials and names of family members. But mostly, I just buy what I like. What's your approach? One for each year? Each denomination? Each country? Only enameled coins? Only those on a particular series (such as Bust dimes)? Others?

• Do you belong to a local club? Then consider giving a talk on love tokens. It is not as challenging as you might think. After all, it's unlikely that anyone there knows as much on the subject as you do.

• At Christmas, I gave my son's fiancée a love token with her initials, along with an article explaining love tokens. I will give her another piece (with her new initials) the day they marry.

• Being active in local coin clubs often results in dealers giving a price break or a first opportunity to purchase new material.

• It would be interesting to learn how members first learned about or became interested in love tokens. An article on how to determine the order of overlapping initials would be helpful to new collectors.

• If you see a hobby-related article, pass it along to Bob Newhouse. He can often get permission to use it.

• Love tokens are collectibles that could also interest your significant other.

• The Love Letter is my favorite publication.

• Putting together a love token exhibit for a local show is work, but it's also enjoyable.

• When people know what you collect, they may ask you to look for initials or names of family members. This often happens to me.

• When I ask dealers to see their love tokens, they sometimes say they wish they had some to sell. The bad news is that with increased popularity the cost of new purchases goes up. The good news is that the value of your collection is also going up.

• It would be nice to see more members supply material for the Love Letter: It could be a short item on a new acquisition, a favorite piece, coins wanted, an unusual source, or anything else related to the hobby.

• I wrote this article as I watched the University of Florida beat up on the University of Maryland football team in the Orange Bowl. As a Maryland graduate, writing this was easier than watching the game.

Today's Love Tokens or Modern Day Love Tokens

by Robert Pedolsky

Most people who collect Love Tokens today usually try to figure out the reason for the token in the first place or, to come up with a fictional story of their own to get a feel for history.

This is why we have books like Convict Love Tokens, edited by Michele Field and Timothy Millett who researched the history of some of the convicts who had love tokens made, and Lloyd Entenmann's wonderful book, Love Tokens as Engraved Coins, in which he talks about stories that go with love tokens whether true or fictional.

But how does the common person, who wants to express their sentiments to another person, go about doing it today? All items mass produced, jewelry, awards, plaques, do not convey the warmth of the simple love token (some woman will disagree about the jewelry part!).

So what do people do today to express their feelings or thoughts of the moment?

Over the years, I have received and saved various one and two dollar bills that people have written their message on to create today's version of love tokens.

I find them just as fascinating as some of the engraved coins that I have in my

collection, and some of the time the reason behind the giving of the token is spelled out by the giver; Christopher's first tooth loss 3-25-97. We can assume it was given by a parent or grandparent or other family member, but why did I get it in change (or from the bank in 2000)? What happened that it was spent. Was it by accident, Christopher buying candy, the family falling on hard times? That we will never know but I do wonder if the giver also realized that the first four numbers of the serial number were 1997, the year of the tooth loss!

Some are just like the most common of love tokens, a name, a date; Brad 5/12/01; To Brooke 1999 From Grammy. Brad's birthday? Brooke's graduation?

Apparently, Pam was in Phoenix on 12-11-91, as noted on a two dollar bill, but what made it important enough to write it on a bill?

Knowledge, Courage, Discipline, Strength = Success 95-96 R. Bowie(?); did they graduate? Go into the military? The Peace Corp?

The only coin that I have received has been a counterstamped Kennedy half 1972; W. Cole 74. Made for a bezel?

Then there is the humorous one, where Washington is turned into a hippie and the writing is a little colorful.

But my favorite ones are two, two dollar bills that I received from two different tellers in the same bank branch about a week apart. - To Richie, From Stella with all my love! 12-25-95.

- To Stella My Love I will always remember and love you. 1-1 Richie.

Boy would I love to know the story behind these two, but for now the stories that I have made up in my head will have to do!

They might not have the personality or charm of love tokens, and I am quite positive that they do not have the collectibility of love tokens, but I find them just as fascinating for the story that they do hold.



A Numismatic Research Project

By Ernie Turnes

I was asked to be the speaker at the Dec. 20 Holiday Party of the Baltimore Coin Club. (Actually, I volunteered.) Seeing that I had set up a love token exhibit that evening and knowing that I am a collector, most people thought that my talk was to be about love tokens. I explained that while love tokens were a key element, my talk was really about research. After a brief explanation of love tokens (using images from the Society web page) I gave an accounting of the story that Sid Gale had written for the July/August 2000 issue of the Love Letter.

Sid had e-mailed me a photo of the bracelet; which I used for most of the slides showing the whole bracelet and each individual piece. I explained whose initials were on each dime and how Sid and his wife Judy had done their research to uncover this information. I also scanned the family



Ernie Turnes

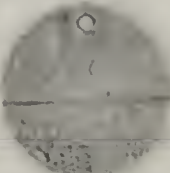
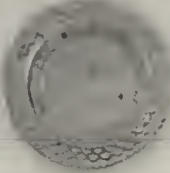
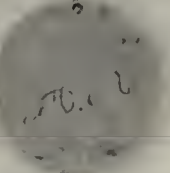



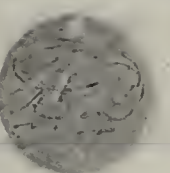
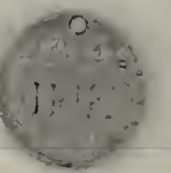
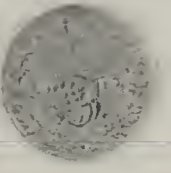


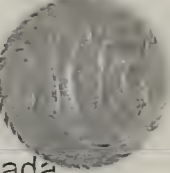









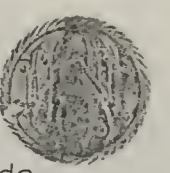
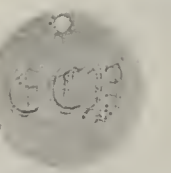
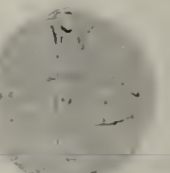

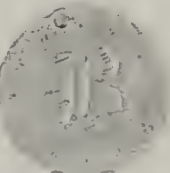





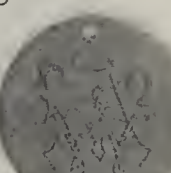

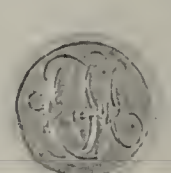

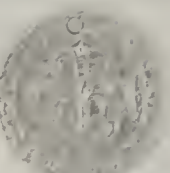

photos that were in the newsletter and used pictures of the San Francisco Plantation from the Internet as I told a little about its history (an interesting story itself).


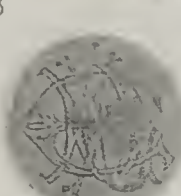


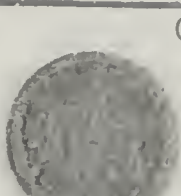
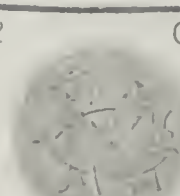




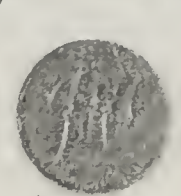





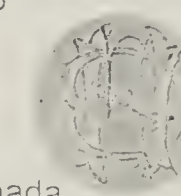
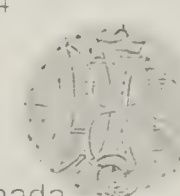








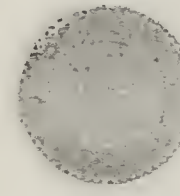
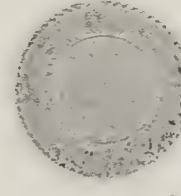

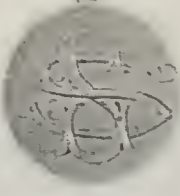



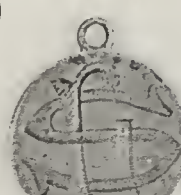



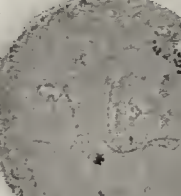





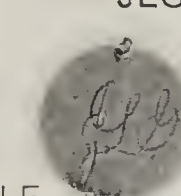
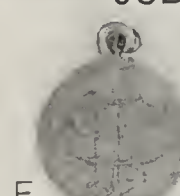


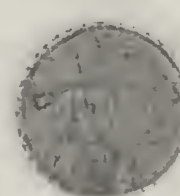

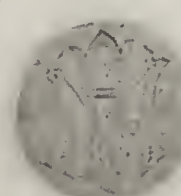


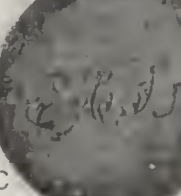
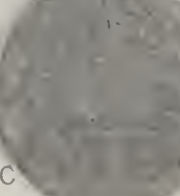
I put these images together using PowerPoint (a Microsoft program) and burned them into a CD. I used a laptop computer and a PC projector to show the slides. (I must have seemed like a high-tech guy; which I'm really not.) The talk consisted of 26 slides and took about 20 minutes; including the time to answer a few questions. I also put out some information about the Love Token Society.

People seemed to enjoy themselves; as several came up to me afterward to say how much they enjoyed the presentation. As a thank you; I was given three beautifully inscribed Seated Dimes.

If anyone would like to make the same presentation at a local club meeting; just let me know and I will send you the CD and my notes.



J-1  RE BLANK REV \$6.00	J-2  1876 \$5.00	J-3  10c Seat. Lib \$6.00	J-4  <185?> \$8.00	J-5  10c Seat. Lib \$7.00	J-6  1884 \$7.00
J-7  1871 \$7.00	J-8  1875 \$7.00	J-9  1882 \$7.00	J-10  1883 \$7.00	J-11  Brit 3 Pence \$7.00	J-12  Brit 3 Pence \$7.00
J-13  Brit 3 Pence \$7.00	J-14  1837 3 Pence \$7.00	J-15  1876 3 Pence \$7.00	J-16  1901 3 Pence \$7.00	J-17  1875 3 Pence \$7.00	J-18  1902 3 Pence \$7.00
J-19  Canada Half Dime \$7.00	J-20  Canada Dime \$7.00	J-21  Brit 6 Pence \$7.00	J-22  1876 \$8.00	J-23  1877 \$8.00	J-24  1877 \$8.00
J-25  1877 \$8.00	J-26  188? \$8.00	J-27  1877 \$8.00	J-30  1883 \$8.00	J-31  Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	J-32  Brit 3 Pence \$8.00
J-33  Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	J-34  Brit 4 Pence \$8.00	J-35  Canada Half Dime \$8.00	J-36  Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	J-37  1875 \$8.00	J-38  1877 \$8.00
J-39  1877 \$8.00	J-40  1876 \$8.00	J-41  10c Seated \$8.00	J-42  <1853> \$9.00	J-43  <1853> \$9.00	J-44  1876 \$9.00
J-45  1889 \$9.00	J-46  1875 \$9.00	J-47  10c Seated \$9.00	J-48  Brit. Farthing \$9.00	J-49  Brit. 4 Pence \$9.00	J-50  Brit. 3 Pence \$9.00
J-51  Brit 3 Pence \$9.00	J-52  1875 \$10.00	J-53  R.E. BLANK REV \$10.00	J-54  10c Seated \$10.00	J-55  <1853> \$10.00	J-56  1875 \$10.00

J-57  1875 \$10.00	FF J-58  1876 \$10.00	DLE J-59  1882 \$10.00	SFH J-60  1884 \$10.00	SWT J-61  1884 \$10.00	CAM J-62  Canada 10 Cent \$10.00
J-63  Canada 10 Cent \$10.00	DMG J-64  Canada 10 Cent \$10.00	BWS J-65  Brit. 3 Pence \$10.00	AR J-66  Canada 5 Cent \$10.00	HLO J-67  Canada 5 Cent \$10.00	JMY J-68  1887 \$12.00
J-69  E. BANK REV \$12.50	NM J-70  Canada 5 Cent \$12.50	NU J-71  Canada 10 Cent \$12.50	FD J-72  Canada 10 Cent \$12.50	HV J-73  Canada 10 Cent \$12.50	CEH J-74  Canada 10 Cent \$12.50
J-75  1877 \$12.50	MLS J-76  RE Both Sides \$12.50	1884 MAN  \$15.00	S-1  RE Both Sides \$7.00	MW/HV S-2  1876 \$10.00	FWB S-3  Canada 5 Cent \$12.00
J-4  1854>	Matching Earrings IM  1857 \$17.00	S-5  1861	Matching Earrings DB  1861 \$15.00	S-6  1892 \$12.00	CRB S-7  1875 \$13.00
J-8  5c 1843	Matching Pins  25c 1876	DB  25c 1876 \$35.00	S-9  1876 \$13.00	LS S-10  <1855> \$13.00	FW S-11  1876 \$15.00
J-1  5c 1861	LSB H-2  25c SEATED \$15.00	ACH H-3  25c SEATED \$15.00	JC H-4  25c <1854> \$15.00	DMW H-5  25c SEATED \$15.00	MC H-6  25c SEATED \$15.00
J-1  4C \$6.00	RH Z-2  HALF DIME 1883 \$8.00	JLG/1883 Z-3  HALF DIME 1886 \$7.00	JCB/CJB Z-4  1838 \$10.00	A Z-5  1839 \$10.00	JC Z-6  1877 \$8.00
J-7  1878 \$8.00	WS Z-8  1883 \$9.00	MA Z-9  1886 \$7.00	VHW Z-10  1901 \$10.00	BL Z-11  25c <1853> \$13.00	HY Z-12  25c SEATED \$13.00

Love Tokens for Sale

Hello all, and welcome to another issue of the Love Letter, and it seems a lot of people's favorite part- the love token sales! We sold almost half of the lots from the last sale. Thank you one and all for your support! I appreciate all of your positive comments and words of encouragement and I hope I can continue to live up to them.

I wish that everyone were able to get all the tokens they want when they call. I know it is frustrating when you receive your Love Letter and call right away only to find that someone has beat you to the token you want. I don't really have an answer to solve this problem. All the letters are mailed first class at the same time and our postal service is responsible from there. If anyone has any suggestions I would be happy to listen to them.

The best way to get ahold of me is by e-mail. Please feel free to call and leave a message if I don't get right back to you via e-mail. I check my e-mail and phone messages daily so you should hear right back from me.

The FUN show was great as always. It was nice meeting a few members and potential members. If you have a chance to get to any major coin show, I would recommend FUN. Who can beat Florida in the middle of winter?

Steve Tompkins, Love Token Sales Manager

The New England Numismatic Association Meeting Radisson Hotel • 200 Stewart Street • Boston, MA

Love Token Meeting • March 16, 2002 • 11 a.m.

PROGRAM:

1. Introduction and History of Love Tokens; 2. Autobiography of a Love Token (slide show); 3. Show and Tell- Bring Tokens to show or sell.

Ordering Love Tokens

Please make checks payable to:

**Steve Tompkins
8510 Pershing
Raytown, MO 64138
(816) 699-2235
smt115@aol.com**

In remitting, please do not forget to include the postage as follows:

Orders up to \$50.00 add \$1.75;
up to \$100.00, add \$3.00;
up to \$150.00, add \$3.75;
up to \$200.00, add \$4.75;
up to \$300.00, add \$5.25;
up to \$400.00, add \$7.25;
over \$400.00, add \$9.00.

Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503



Love Letter

No. 200

Love Token Society Newsletter

April 2002



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Love Letter Layout/Design
Mary Hammel
Manhattan, KS



Doomed Civil War Sailor's Lucky Coin Goes on Display

by Gregg Zoroya - reprinted from USA Today

Perhaps the most heart-wrenching and cherished prize among artifacts recovered from inside the sunken Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley—a \$20 gold piece given by a soldier's sweetheart as a lucky charm—will go on public display next month at the center in Charleston, S.C., where research on the recovered vessel continues.

Archeologists at the Warren Lasch Conservation center wept when the coin was found last year. It will be displayed during weekend tours of the center, where visitors can view the 40-foot submarine in clear water in a special tank. The exact date in March when the coin will go on display has not been decided, because no final decision has been made on a secure display case, says Lasch, chairman of Friends of the Hunley, a private group raising money to support the Hunley conservation project. The artifact has been valued at \$8 million to \$10 million.

"I just think it is the preeminent Civil War artifact," Lasch says.



Stopped a bullet at Shiloh:
George Dixon brought his lucky gold piece.

Minted in 1860, the Lady Liberty gold piece was given to Confederate soldier George Dixon by his Alabama sweetheart, Queenie Bennett. Dixon carried it in his trousers pocket into battle at Shiloh, Tenn., in 1862, where a bullet struck him. The coin stopped the bullet and was dented. Afterward, Dixon had it inscribed with, "Shiloh, April 6, 1862, My Life Preserver," and included his initials, G.E.D. He carried it with him after becoming the Hunley's last commander. The submarine, which was financed by New Orleans lawyer Horace Lawson Hunley, was initially a disaster as a naval weapon. It sank twice during trial runs, killing 13, including Hunley.

Later, under the command of Dixon and with a crew of eight, the submarine rammed a 135-pound explosive into the hull of the USS Housatonic, a warship taking part in a Union blockade of Charleston in 1864. The explosion that followed sunk the Housatonic in minutes, killing five of its crew.

Buy inexplicably, the Hunley also went down and remained undiscovered for more than a century. It was finally pulled from the bottom of Charleston Harbor two years ago. Archeologists have found a wealth of artifacts, including a ship compass with its glass intact, a leather wallet, a kind of joystick used to maneuver the craft, the submarine's depth gauge, buttons and fragments of clothing, eight sets of shoes and eight canteens. Blocks of sediment removed from the craft, but not yet excavated, have been x-rayed and appear to show objects such as a pocket watch and binoculars, along with what could be a ship's log.

continued on page 2

From the Treasurer

If you exhibited love tokens in an ANA sponsored coin show, please advise. A club member's dues are waived if he/she exhibited love tokens in a major show.

Final Request for Renewal

If you have not paid your 2002 dues please do so immediately. If you do not plan to renew I would appreciate it if you would let me know also. However, if I do not receive your dues prior to the publication of the next newsletter I will assume that you are not going to renew.

- Sidney R. Gale

Doomed Civil War Sailor's Lucky Coin continued from page 1

Remains of all eight crew members were found. The youngest is thought to have been a teenager and the oldest in his 40s. Forensic specialists hope to determine ages, ancestry, injuries and physical characteristics and eventually conduct facial reconstructions.

Lasch says the coin display will fulfill a goal of allowing the public to see the project's most prized find. He says it is also hoped the new display will boost attendance, which fell by more than half after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Lasch hopes that officials can design a display case in which the artifact will rotate and the coin can be viewed from a distance of 18 to 22 inches so that people can read the inscription and study the curvature of the bullet dent.

"It's an overpowering experience," he says.

Wanted

Seated Liberty dimes with these single initials:

I, N, Q, W, X and Z

Will trade or purchase.

Dick Loveland
50 West Broad Street
Suite 3300
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 464-3563
rloveland@lblaw.net

Financial Statement

General Funds

Balance as of January 31, 2002 \$5,803.86

Receipts

New Members	\$30.00
Membership Dues 2002	\$1,060.00
Membership Dues 2003	\$140.00
Membership Dues 2004	\$30.00
Interest {Bank Account} Jan.	\$5.24

Total Receipts \$1,265.24

Subtotal \$7,069.10

Expenses

Check #1018 - Office Depot	\$68.06
Check #1019 - Post Office (stamps)	\$144.00
Check #1020 - Post Office	\$16.35
Check #1021 - Bob Newhouse (LTS #199)	\$318.96

Total Expenses \$547.37

Balance as of March 31, 2002 \$6,521.73

Permanent Fund

Audubon Savings and Loan Association	
1 year certificate of deposit	\$655.55

Membership Report

Membership As of January 31, 2002	216
New Members	4
Deceased	3
Membership As of March 31, 2002	216

Sidney R. Gale - Secretary /Treasurer

Welcome New Members!

#1028 Joyce Marie Todd 401 Poplar Place Manhattan, KS 66502	#1030 George Norris 110 LLA 2610 Whitis Ave. Austin, TX 78705
#1029 Don Noe 20 Beacon Court Robbinsville, NJ 08691	#1031 Bruce Angus 832 Marion Ave. Hemet, CA 92543-7224

Please visit our website at: www.lovetokensociety.org.



Dispelling Love Token Myths

The Backwards Initial

There has been some speculation and mystery regarding love tokens with initials engraved in reverse. The common perception is that they were used as seals for wax impressions. This seems logical until one examines examples with very shallow engraving. These would have produced unsatisfactory impressions.

There seems to be two categories of reverse carved love tokens. The first is those engraved with deeper and wider initials, which could have functioned as seals. The second type is more intriguing. A Victorian postcard may shed some light on the topic. The 1910-postmarked card reveals a secret meeting between Miss Bail Rokes and a person with the initials F.V. Observe that the location, Mine Street, and the initials are both written in reverse.

This the second type of reverse-engraved love token may have intentionally been made to hide the identity of the giver. These engravings would have to be examined closely or viewed with a mirror in order to decipher the initials. After all, even straight forward initials in florid Victorian script can be difficult to read, especially when overlapped in a monogram. Surely this type could indicate a secret love, hidden from the world, and adds to the mystery already surrounding love tokens.

Engraving Techniques: The Fancier the Better

Many love token collectors prefer fancier and more intricate pieces, often believing that they are made by more accomplished engravers. Intricacy and skill level can be related, but not always. Please review the excerpts below taken from Engraving on Precious Metals, by A. Brittain, S. Wolpert, and P. Morgan, published in 1977 by Arco Publishing Co., Inc.

To impress the fact that the script monograms should be drawn and engraved so that the layman will have no difficulty in reading them, I must again emphasize that the main stems (body lines) of the monogram

lettering must always be drawn simply, so that the completed monogram will be easy to read. The main stems must be accented to give them prominence, and never be out-classed by flourishes. The eye must see the body lines of the letter first, and not the extra added lines (p.88).

When engraving an inscription one should aim at neatness, compactness, and harmony of type. Please remember that the inscription is there for purpose other than an engraver's amusement or reward. It is there to read, so all fancy lines and curls should be avoided at all costs. I am always suspicious of any fancy work on an inscription because it makes me feel that it is put there to hide some defect in the general work, perhaps a slip with the engraver, a misspelled word which has been partly erased and covered with a fancy line and then balanced up on the other side or maybe just to camouflage plain bad engraving. Anyhow, it is bad form (p.116).

Some skilled engravers have been criticized for engraving with an unpolished graver on polished metals, the criticism being that the cuts are ragged, and the critic

believing that the skill of the engraver is manifested in his ability to cut a bright cut. Of course, that is an erroneous idea. The reason an unpolished graver is used on a polished surface is to produce a contrast between the surface of the metal and the line cut (pp.83-84).

The first two passages illustrate that the sole purpose of a monogram is to be easily read. Although modern aesthetics are a little different from Victorian excesses, this does indicate that the sole purpose of a monogram is to be easily read. Fancy scrollwork and textured backgrounds may inhibit legibility and in some cases cover imperfections or errors. The last quotation (pp. 83-84) brings to mind what love token collectors call diamond cut lines. These lines are actually made by sharp polished gravers and should be referred as bright cuts. Here the author discusses the validity of another engraving technique and although not as flashy as the bright cut, does have merits as well. All three passages show that elaborateness is not always an indication of skill and fancier is not always better.



Enlarged
View

Pictured above is a Victorian postcard with mirror writing (enlarged view). This technique has been used for secrecy purposes and dates at least as far back as Leonardo DaVinci's journals, and probably farther.

From the Secretary

Sidney R. Gale

A few of our members have submitted corrections to the information published in the directory. Some members have acquired e-mail addresses for the first time also. Please make the following changes to your directories as you see appropriate.

E-mail Addresses:

Wayne Arter: VWAYNEARTER@MSN.COM
Ernest Botte: ernie@ebwcoin.com
Martha Eaton: vinnydvol@aol.com
Robert Heitt: hiett@gallatinriver.net (correction)
Linda Henderson: linhen2020@yahoo.com
Charles Lewis: CHABAR@COMCAST.NET
Kenny Preble: kcpjr@hit.net
Tom Radzavich: Radz.T.Radz@MSN.Com
Gary Sierk: GSIERK@Juno.Com
Herbert Snyder: Mesny@webtv.net
Jon Stock: BREC@Baraboo.com
William Stratemeyer: bstrati@bellatlantic.net
Eric Sweet: HATHER1@aol.com
John Weatherwax: jonwax@ix.netcom.com (correction)
Betty Wolf: betsinwhg@webtv.net

Addresses:

Bonnie H. Oakman
5700 Belews Creek Rd
Walkertown, NC 27051
Coakman@triad.RR.Com

Frank J. Pedersen
1760 Arroyo Vista Way
El Dorado Hills CA 95762-9706

Peter Karpenski
222 Elm St
Pittsfield MA 01201

Jean Reisman
4231 Warner Blvd
Burbank, CA 91505

Deceased

LTS has received notification that several of our members have recently passed. We extend our condolences to their family and friends.

Louis Wilson - 1/30/02
Clyde Clarkin
Melvin Dieterich - 2/1/01



Trying to Put a Pair Together

By Ernie Turnes

Collectors of love tokens sometimes wonder about the engraved cons that they have. Some are pierced. Did the lady wear it on a chain? A piece may be pierced in more than one place. Was it part of a necklace, a bracelet, or some other form of jewelry? Is a coin a single piece or one of a pair that was broken up?

Earlier this year I learned the answer to that last question in regards to one love token in my collection.

A few days before the February Baltimore Coin Club meeting, I took a love token from my collection and put it in the BCC auction. It was a coin from a collection that I had bought and the piece had no particular significance to me. A day later I was looking at love tokens on eBay, where I sometimes bid. In the listing I saw that there was a love token with GJ engraved. Although those letters were not initials that I was searching for, I decided to look at the piece anyway. I was surprised to see that the coin was the same as a piece that I own. In fact, the piece that I was to put in the BCC auction.

Both coins are on similarly toned 1892 Barber dimes. The obverses of both are the same grade (AU). Each is pierced at the top, the holes being the same size. Neither has a border and both have plain backgrounds, with the engraving being as identical as hand engraving will allow. They were obviously a pair at one time.

I decided not to put my GJ in the upcoming BCC auction. I then bid on its twin on eBay. Unfortunately, I was outbid, even though I increased my maximum bid twice, to a price above what I considered its value. In the end I was unsuccessful in buying the piece.

Perhaps one day the pieces will be reunited.

NENA Love Token Society Meeting

Just a brief report about the Love Token Society meeting that was held in Boston, MA on March 16, 2002. We had 5 attendees. I gave a brief history of love tokens, a bit of history on the Love Token Society, and we watched an audio-visual slide show entitled, "The Autobiography of a Love Token."

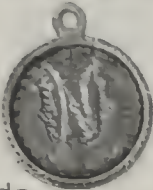

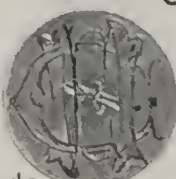





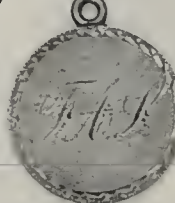




















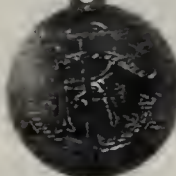

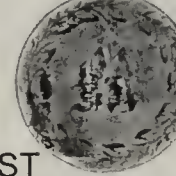



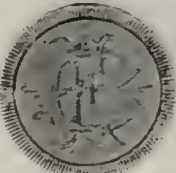






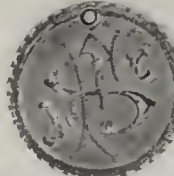



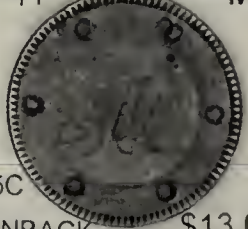
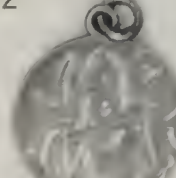

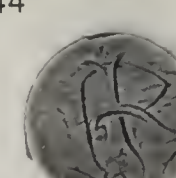
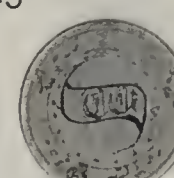


Special thanks goes to LTS member Ernie Botte who offered material for the show and tell portion of the program. Handouts on articles about love tokens were given to all attendees and Sid gale's address was offered if anyone was interested in becoming a member of the LTS. A question and answer session concluded the program.

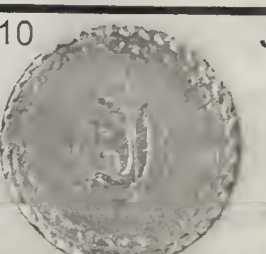
I also exhibited in the category of Tokens and Medals. I won second place with an exhibit entitled, "The Beauty and Romance of Love Tokens." I actually had 5 people who came up to me after the show and told me how wonderful an exhibit it was, which of course made my day!

Best regards, George A. Bilodeau, Jr.



J-1 R.E. BLANK REV \$6.00	J-2 TJE 1876 \$5.00	J-3 Prefab 10c Seat. Lib \$6.00	J-4 JDM <185?> \$8.00	J-5 AK 10c Seat. Lib \$7.00	J-6 JRM 1884 \$7.00
J-7 JB 1875 \$7.00	J-8 HM 1882 \$7.00	J-9 GMS 1883 \$7.00	J-10 WP Brit 3 Pence \$7.00	J-11 NJK Brit 3 Pence \$7.00	J-12 DF Brit 3 Pence \$7.00
J-13 F 1876 3 Pence \$7.00	J-14 CMP 1901 3 Pence \$7.00	J-15 AHM 1875 3 Pence \$7.00	J-16 GHG 1902 3 Pence \$7.00	J-17 JAM Canada Half Dime \$7.00	J-18 MFG Canada Dime \$7.00
J-19 blank Brit 6 Pence \$7.00	J-20 MFH 1876 \$8.00	J-21 ACW 1877 \$8.00	J-22 CBP 1877 \$8.00	J-23 FRE 188? \$8.00	J-24 NNJ 1877 \$8.00
J-25 MER 1883 \$8.00	J-26 AED Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	J-27 TLM Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	J-28 TCN Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	J-29 WH Canada Half Dime \$8.00	J-30 FCP Brit 3 Pence \$8.00
J-31 McEC 1875 \$8.00	J-32 CHC 1877 \$8.00	J-33 MAB 1877 \$8.00	J-34 AWD 1876 \$8.00	J-35 MK <1853> \$9.00	J-36 RLH 1889 \$9.00
J-37 AH 1875 \$9.00	J-38 AW Brit. Farthing \$9.00	J-39 RB Brit. 4 Pence \$9.00	J-40 WKC Brit. 3 Pence \$9.00	J-41 HFT 1875 \$10.00	J-42 CBT R.E. BLANK REV \$10.00
J-43 TWD 1875 \$10.00	J-44 DLE 1876 \$10.00	J-45 SFH 1882 \$10.00	J-46 CAM 1884 \$10.00	J-47 CMM Canada 10 Cent \$10.00	J-48 DMG Canada 10 Cent \$10.00
J-49 BWS Canada 10 Cent \$10.00	J-50 AR Brit. 3 Pence \$10.00	J-51 HLO Canada 5 Cent \$10.00	J-52 JMY Canada 5 Cent \$10.00	J-53 AGT 1887 \$12.00	J-54 NM R.E. BLANK REV \$12.50

J-55  Canada 5 Cent \$12.50	NU	J-56  Canada 10 Cent \$12.50	HV	J-57  Canada 10 Cent \$12.50	CEH	J-58  Canada 10 Cent \$12.50	IB	J-59  R E Both Sides \$15.00	1884	MAN	
J-60  1877 \$12.50	MES	H-1  1883 \$10.00	CC	H-2  1890 \$10.00	ESR	H-3  1888 \$10.00	FAY	H-4  1876 \$10.00	MEF	H-5  1878 \$10.00	CAJR
H-6  1883 \$10.00	APB	H-7  1883 \$10.00	DLE	H-8  1877 \$10.00	JLA	H-9  1875 \$10.00	LTA	H-10  1876 \$10.00	CWF	H-11  Both Sides \$10.00	CIS
H-12  1891 \$10.00	NMD	H-13  1872 \$10.00	BS	H-14  1890 \$10.00	AB	H-15  187? \$10.00	WFB	H-16  1887 \$10.00	RWT	H-17  1856 \$10.00	EB
H-18  1875 \$10.00	MME	H-19  1875 \$10.00	EWR	H-20  BLANK REV. \$10.00	CCW	H-21  <1854> \$12.00	JCB	H-22  1883 \$12.00	EH	H-23  SEATED \$12.00	MSB
H-24  1883 \$12.00	TRG	H-25  SEATED \$12.00	AAC	H-26  BUST \$12.00	M	H-27  1888 \$12.00	CLB	H-28  1876 \$12.00	IR	H-29  1875 \$12.00	LCH
H-30  1885 \$12.00	EB	H-31  1877 \$12.00	VTH	H-32  1889 \$12.00	WFB	H-33  1877 \$12.00	HSB	H-34  1884 \$12.00	WB	H-35  1877 \$12.00	FBB
H-36  BOTH \$12.00	FA/ND	H-37  1875 \$12.00	FS	H-38  1884 \$12.00	FFE	H-39  25C SEATED \$12.00	WHD	H-40  25C 1877 \$12.00	WA	H-41  25C PINBACK \$13.00	MC
H-42  1875 \$13.00	HPR	H-43  1853 \$13.00	FCW	H-44  1875 \$15.00	JR	H-45  SEATED \$15.00	TT	H-46  25C 1861 \$13.00	LSB	H-47  25C SEATED \$15.00	ACH

H-48  25C SEATED \$15.00	H-49  25C <1853> \$15.00	H-50  25C SEATED \$15.00	H-51  25C 1877 \$15.00	H-52  25C BLANK \$15.00	H-53  25C SEATED \$15.00
H-54  25C <1853> \$15.00	T-1  RE Both Sides \$7.00	T-2  1876 \$10.00	T-3  Matching Earrings 1861 \$15.00		T-4  1892 \$12.00
T-5  1875 \$12.00	T-6  1876 \$12.00	T-7  1886 \$12.00	T-8  1883 \$12.00	T-9  1888 \$13.00	T-10  1849 \$17.00
T-11  25c <1854> \$16.00	T-12  1847 \$16.00	T-13  25c 1843 \$12.00	 25c 1876 \$35.00		T-14  1878 \$15.00
T-15  LG CENT \$25.00	T-16  LC 1845 \$25.00	D-1  10c CANADIAN \$15.00	 10c BLANK \$15.00	Z-1  IHC \$6.00	Z-2  HALF DIME \$8.00
Z-3  1877 \$8.00	Z-4  1883 \$9.00	Z-5  25c <1853> \$13.00	Z-6  25c SEATED \$13.00	Z-7  HALF DIMES 1857 1860 \$12.00	
Z-8  1876 \$10.00	Z-9  <1855> \$15.00	Z-10  1889 \$15.00	Z-11  R.E. Both Sides \$22.00		

Love Tokens for Sale

Hello fellow Love Token collectors! Welcome to the latest issue of the Love Letter and the love token sales. There are quite a few new tokens in this sale, a total of 143 in all. I hope many will find new homes! After setting up all of the pages I noticed a few errors in the layout. Lot # T-1 is on a half dime; lot T-10, T-12 and T-14 are on US quarters; lot T-15 & 16 are on US large cents; lot D-1 is both ends of an original bracelet; lot Z-7 is part of an original 3 coin broach.

I am pleased in the response to my first auction but I would urge more people to place a bid. I believe that there were several good buys. Out of 21 lots we had 39 bids and sold 13 lots. Total reduction in bids for the 13 lots sold, was \$75.25. Thank you all for your participation! I hope to do another auction in the next few months. I will be very busy for the next several months but I promise to get something together soon.

I have a bit of news. After living my whole life in the Midwest, I have recently purchased a business in the beautiful state of Washington and am in the process of packing up my lifelong accumulation of junk and treasures and dragging them 2000 miles to the West Coast. Although this is a time of much anticipation and excitement, it is also filled with stress and much work. For this sale, **Sid Gale** has kindly volunteered to take care of the collecting of funds and shipping out of tokens. I have shipped all the coins to him and if you wish to purchase any you will need to contact him, as I will be in transit when this sale reaches you. Sid took care of the sales for many years so be assured he will take very good care of you! Thanks for the offer Sid! Good luck to everyone and next issue I will hopefully be settled and back at it. I will publish my new contact information then.

- *Steve Tompkins, Love Token Sales Manager*

Ordering Love Tokens

Please make checks payable to:

Sid Gale

P.O. Box 970

Mandeville, LA 70470

(504) 626-3867

sidgale@charter.net

In remitting, please do not forget to include the postage as follows:

Orders up to \$50.00 add \$1.75;

up to \$100.00, add \$3.00;

up to \$150.00, add \$3.75;

up to \$200.00, add \$4.75;

up to \$300.00, add \$5.25;

up to \$400.00, add \$7.25;

over \$400.00, add \$9.00.

Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503

PLEASE NOTE:
SID GALE IS HANDLING COIN SALES
FOR THIS ISSUE



Love Letter

No. 201

Love Token Society Newsletter

June 2002



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Love Letter Layout/Design

Mary Hammel
Manhattan, KS



Love Tokens: Not Just Coins!

by Carol Harmes

Love token collectors may have learned of engraved coins first when encountered at a coin show. Others may have been given one with their initials or had one passed down within the family. In my earlier days of collecting, I occasionally asked for love tokens at Antique shows or shops. Often dealers either did not know what they were or responded "What kind"? The latter was a little perplexing.

I later discovered that "love tokens" were a very broad category and "engraved coins" were just one type. It was once considered inappropriate for a single woman to receive a gift from a suitor unless it was utilitarian. Thus presents of everyday objects became quite ornate, as the gesture of "love" was in the time it took to fashion them.

A major group of love tokens is sewing-related. Girls and young women were taught sewing, embroidery, lace making, and knitting. The required tools were often presented by beaus. Many thimbles were manufactured with ornate designs, some with hand engraved scenes. Fancier thimbles were often made of silver and occasionally gold. Lace making and knitting implements were hand carved to be as decorative as they were functional.

The busk stay was sewn into a corset as ribbing for support. They were fashioned from wood, bone, or baleen (a material unique to the mouth of the Baleen whale). It seems odd that ornate pictures accompanied by initials of the giver were carved on an item that would not be visible to others. Corset busks were considered especially romantic since they were worn close to the body or heart. There is something playfully naughty about this concept during a time of Victorian propriety and purity.

Kitchen items are another type of love token. Large, ornately carved wooden spoons originated in Wales in the 18th century and were used as symbols of betrothal. References to "spooning" abound during the Victorian period. Spoons were a symbol of love as two spoons nest together in a perfect fit like lovers. Another love token used in the kitchen, was the rolling pin. Some were fashioned from wood and/or whalebone. Others were painted glass filled with cologne, brandy, or seeds. Although a rolling pin is usually a functional item, the glass ones were too fragile for use and intended as wall decorations.

Valentines were also very popular in the Victorian era, as travel was difficult and telephones not yet available. Correspondence was fashionable and much more of an art form than it is today. Valentines were exchanged not only by couples, but also friends and family. These cards ranged from ornate to sentimental to playfully mocking.

As demonstrated above, engraved coins are just one form of love token. Benders are coins that were twice bent and are considered the forerunner of the love token. These were fashioned to be talismans of luck and love. Later, coins were smoothed and engraved, becoming what we refer to as love tokens. A thoughtful tradition was enhanced and augmented with ornate engravings of initials, messages, or pictures.

continued on page 3



From the Secretary/ Treasurer

We have 49 members (on the mailing list) who have not submitted their dues for 2002. A red mark has been made on your address if your dues have not been received. Request you submit payment ASAP. This will be your final newsletter if your dues are not received prior to our next publication date. Love Token Sales Sid Gale will be handling the love token sales again this month. Steve is in the process of completing his move to Washington and will resume handling the sale commencing with the next newsletter. You will find Sid's phone number on the first page of the newsletter.



Call for Materials for the Love Letter

We need your help!
We encourage all members to send in articles, stories or photos of interest to love token collectors, or letters to the editor. Send all materials to:

Robert C. Newhouse
Love Letter Editor
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503
(785) 539-1831
rcn@ksu.edu

Financial Statement

General Funds

Balance as of March 31, 2002 \$6,521.73

Receipts

New Members	\$30.00
Membership Dues 2002	\$90.00
Love Token Sales	\$954.00
Interest {Bank Account}	
Feb. \$4.41	
Mar. \$5.34	
Apr. \$5.43	
May \$6.22	

Total \$21.40

Total Receipts

\$1,095.40

Subtotal

\$7,617.13

Expenses

Check #1022 - Bob Newhouse- LTS #200	\$361.74
Check #1023; 1024; 1025; 1026; 1027	
Love Token Sellers	\$921.00

Total Expenses

\$1,282.74

Balance as of June 15, 2002

\$6,334.39

Permanent Fund

Audubon Savings and Loan Association
1 year certificate of deposit

\$655.55

Membership Report

Membership As of March 31, 2002	216
New Members	3
Membership As of June 15, 2002	169
Delinquent Dues	49

Sidney R. Gale - Secretary /Treasurer

Welcome New Members!

#1032 Loreen Richards
4622 Canyon Ridge Lane
Reno, NV 89503

#1034 Michelle A. Brubaker
733 Krpan Court
Dekalb, IL 60115

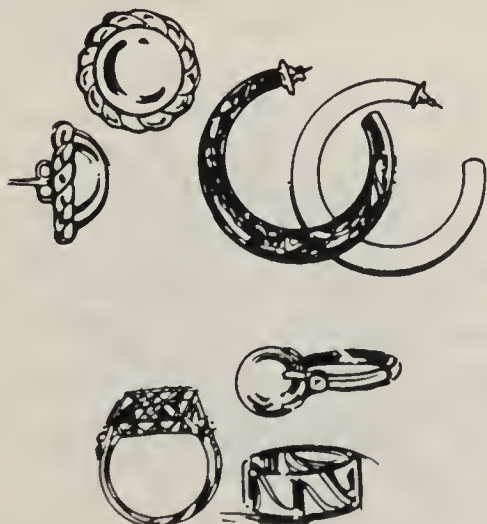
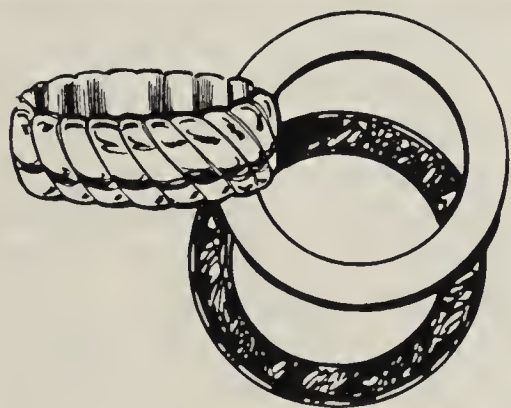
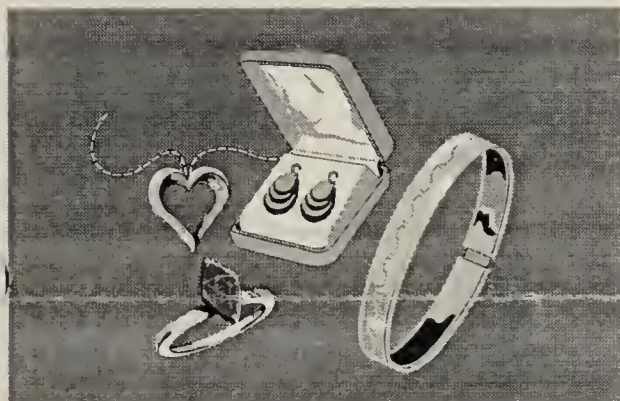
#1033 Bruce J. White
3 Woodfern Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08628

Please visit our website at: www.lovetokensociety.org.



Love Tokens: Not Just Coins! *continued*

An introduction to love tokens can be found using various references. Love Tokens as Engraved Coins, by Lloyd Entenmann refers to valentines, busk stays, knitting needle sheaths, lace bobbins, Welsh spoons, and engraved coins. A book by Roberta B. Etter, Tokens of Love, mentions gloves, love spoons, flowers, rings, coin love tokens, needlework tools, and valentines. A video entitled "The Valentine & Expressions of Love," is available for loan through the Love Token Society. Topics covered are valentines, sailor bundles, shell valentines, corset stays, and glass rolling pins. Upon viewing this large category of love tokens, one might want to clarify what we have always called love tokens. Perhaps "coin" love token would be a better description.



Everything Old is New Again

By Michelle Brubaker

An expensive habit, 'tis true. But where others have their fifty pairs of shoes, a closetful of model cars, or classic pieces of bone china, I have my love tokens. Yes, I have my tokens and they serve me well.

My collection is eclectic in that it started out in rather a humble beginning (a routine eBay search), and lead to a broad spectrum of beads, baubles, and bangles. I handle my love tokens a little differently than most collectors: I bring them back to their original purpose; that of being a part of jewelry.

I have to shake my head in disappointment when I see a love token up for auction with solder on the back, where the pin or button has been removed. It always makes me wonder why this was done. Some pieces of love token jewelry survive in their original condition, but most don't. Earrings, bracelets, and pendants aren't worn with pride. They're stapled into plastic holders and placed elsewhere, their original intended uses gone. To me, this is ridiculous; these pieces were given as symbols of love and adoration, to beautify and adorn the body, and to give the Victorian man/woman something to keep close to their heart always.

Still, I make myself look like a haughty soul, so I'll say to each collector their own. But I want my love tokens to have a second life, so I bring each one out into a whole new light when I get them.

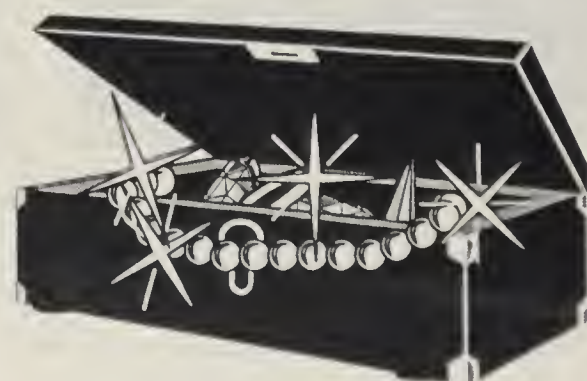
I stocked up on silver ball chain, along with some silver drum beads painted in black enamel. I wanted to create a pendant for my first love token, a British sixpence with my initials MAB. But it didn't stop there. As I acquired more and more love tokens, original artwork began to develop. I was to string what would be the first of eventually four original love token necklaces. I've found absolutely no drawbacks to wearing my love tokens on a chain, except that perhaps the necklaces eventually get a bit weighty and there are plenty of jingling sounds involved in so many coins being grouped together. Not all my necklace pieces are love tokens, some are merely interesting coins.

I'm now beginning my own love token bracelet, since I, being a poor college student, can't afford an original one. I intend to have nothing but Liberty Seated Dimes on it. In lieu of design, I'm always open to suggestions (or donations, heh heh) for my jewelry. Currently, I have 39 love token pieces, most of them foreign, but I do have quite a few nice seated dimes, a Barber dime, and two Barber quarters. In the future, I'll send a list of my favorite pieces, plus some rather unusual ones that I have. For the meanwhile, the hunt continues for more love tokens.

Author's Note: If anyone would like me to design original jewelry for their love tokens, please feel free to e-mail me at: gaze2wardireland@aol.com.
Happy Summer!



*One of Michelle Brubaker's
necklace creations*



Love Token Replicas Found at Gift Shop

by Carol Harmes

To my surprise, I received a modern day "love token" from George Simms (LTS #517). It was purchased by Simms' daughter at a Cracker Barrel gift shop. A visit to the restaurant yielded a variety of designs, all with different sentiments. Although they were cast and not made from coins, I was surprised to see the tradition kept alive in this modern day.

Wishes Forever

The history of the

Love Token

(See back)

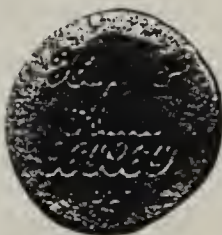
An 1800's tradition
An expression of love and remembrance to be kept close



A very popular form of expression in the 1800's. Love tokens were made by smoothing off one side of a coin and engraving the name or initials of a loved one onto it. Some were done by sailors who collected their coins at different ports. These tokens were presented as an expression of their love, a remembrance to be kept always.

We have created our own version of the love token you can share with someone special. Love tokens are meant to be kept close. To be placed in a pocket, wallet, or purse as a reminder of someone special.

©2000 Treasures & Trinkets, Inc.
By D.M. Baribault
797 Made in U.S.A.



Back of Token



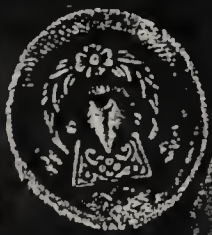
Hugs & Kisses

The history of the

Love Token

(See back)

An 1800's tradition
An expression of love and remembrance to be kept close



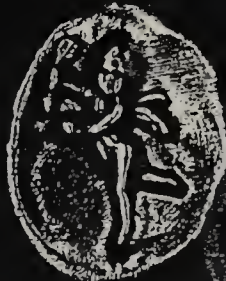
Angels Watch

The history of the

Love Token

(See back)

An 1800's tradition
An expression of love and remembrance to be kept close



Some Love Token Events at a Recent Show

By Ernie Turnes

At the mid-June Maryland State Numismatic Association coin show I bought an 1878 \$2 1/2 gold love token inscribed *John Lyle Harris*. A friend told me that John Harris was the founder of nearby Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, but he didn't know the middle name. I entered that name on Yahoo but got no hits. Any suggestions as to how I can learn who Mr. Harris was? (My email address is eturnes@juno.com.)

A TV reporter/cameraman came to the MSNA show and I took him around and explained what was going on. (My responsibility was publicity for the show.) Someone mentioned love tokens to him and he took a real interest. The only one that I could immediately locate was the \$2 1/2 piece that my wife always wears. He asked both of us questions about love tokens while taping. Unfortunately, nothing about the show was aired.

One of the exhibits at the show included a couple of Jewish love tokens with the symbol for God.

I was given a 2002 Silver Eagle for exhibiting at the show (not love tokens this time). Expecting our first grandchild in July, I will have a local jeweler engrave the baby's name and birth date in the field.

At the MSNA show I talked with a dealer about love tokens. In the conversation he mentioned that he once had a love token engraved *The first dollar I earned*. I told him I have such a piece in my collection, although I don't know if it's the same piece. Mine also has the initials *BWW*. I wonder how many "first dollar" love tokens were made.



Where Were Love Tokens?

By Pat Hammond

Love Tokens come in many forms. We, as members of the Love Token Society think of Love Tokens as engraved coins. These coins are ground down on one or both sides to remove the official design, then engraved for presentation to the loved one. The coins can be engraved with an initial, full name, dates, sometimes ornate floral bouquets or scenes.

These have been presented to relatives, friends, and others on birthdays, anniversaries, births and even funerals. These tokens have been made in this and other countries, in just about any metal and on almost any denomination you can name. But, the most popular coin of choice is the U.S. dime.

The making of love tokens dates back to before 1792, the fad reached its height in the last half of the nineteenth century, but it's continuing today. If you notice, the workmanship of love tokens ranges from crude to expert. Some have been done by novices, others by professional engravers, many were made by jewelers, service men, or prisoners.

There are other forms of Love Tokens. The Welsh and Pennsylvania Dutch couples had a charming custom of giving one another hand crafted gifts, useful for their future home. Such things as cake molds, butter prints, carved spoons which were covered with symbols and announcements of their love for one another.

In the fifteenth-century England, coins were sometimes used as magic amulets or charms. Such coins were called "benders" because men would bend them twice before giving them to their ladies-this ensured that the charms would not accidentally be used as money. In slang terms, the British still refer to a sixpence as a "bender".

In the Victorian Era, a woman would weave an elaborate wreath by intertwining strands of her own hair with those of her fiancée. Once the marriage took place and children were born, strands of their hair would be added to the wreath as well.

The ring is common to many cultures as the perfect symbol of love. Its unbroken shape represents eternity and has symbolized a lover's pledge since the days of early Rome. Rings given in affection were usually worn on the left ring finger or the right middle

finger, probably because ancient Egyptian physicians believed nerves from these fingers led straight to the heart.

Greeks often depicted the wild hare on wedding rings because it symbolized Aphrodite, the goddess of love. Later, it became the custom to adorn rings with various jewels. Many gems carried their own significance and represented certain aspects of the relationship. Over time, the diamond emerged as the symbol of betrothal because its clarity and brilliance reflected innocence and purity, while it's strength signaled the hope of an enduring love.

Amethyst: Power

Bloodstone: Bravery & wisdom

Diamond: Innocence, purity, engagement

Emerald: Loyalty & friendship

Garnet: Unwavering devotion, fidelity

Moonstone: Tender passion

Opal: Fearlessness & consistency

Pearl: Perfect love, beauty

Ruby: Nobility, courage

Sapphire: Truth, sincerity

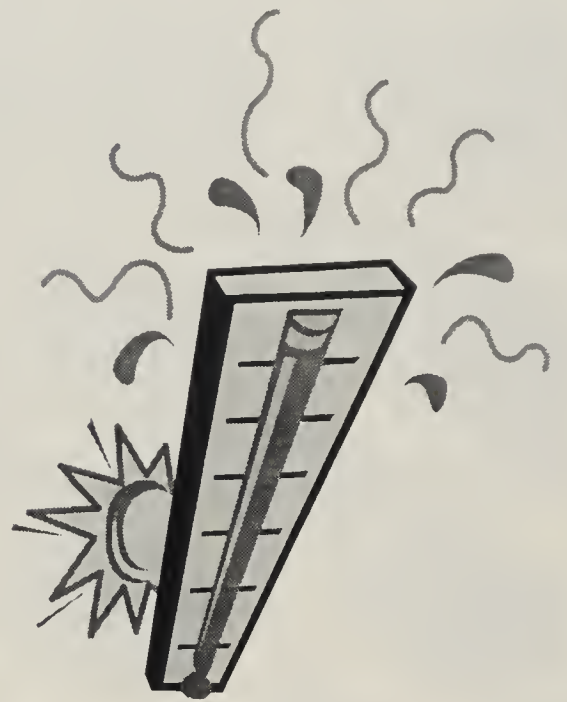
Topaz: Strength, cheerfulness

Turquoise: Propriety, success

Today's Love Tokens could include a song or poem written by the groom to his bride, or a hand embroidered handkerchief for the groom. Whatever the special gift, just remember, the idea behind the gift is to give something of yourself created with loving thoughts to the one you love.



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



WANTED

Love tokens with the following initials:

CW

CLW

KP or KMP

PH or PDH


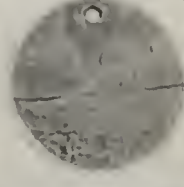

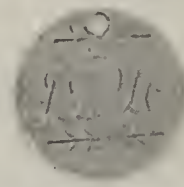

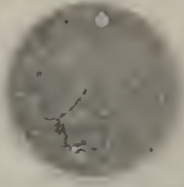
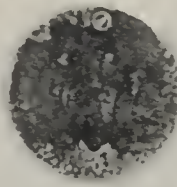
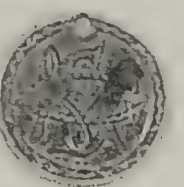


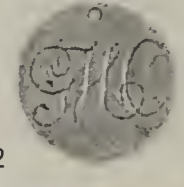
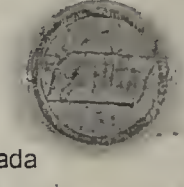
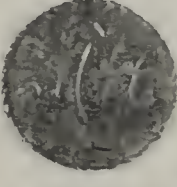

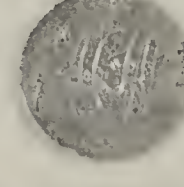



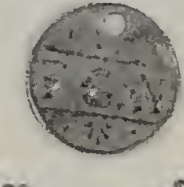
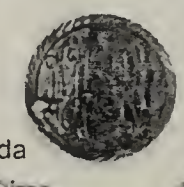

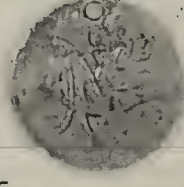
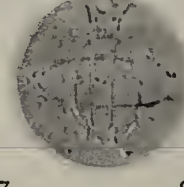
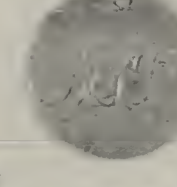



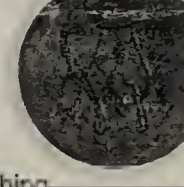

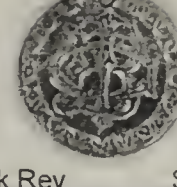
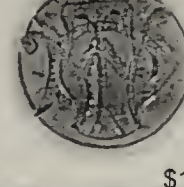
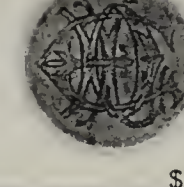
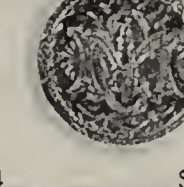
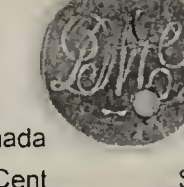
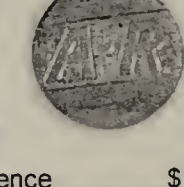
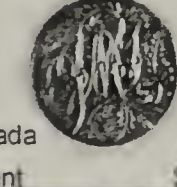
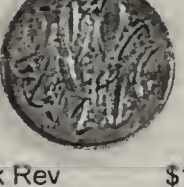
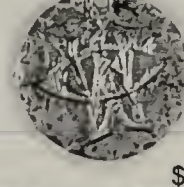
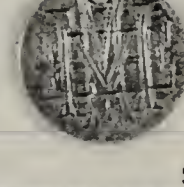
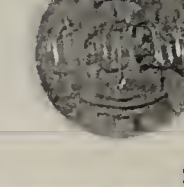
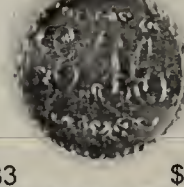
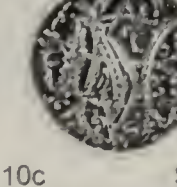


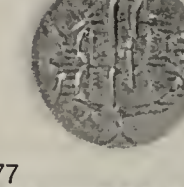
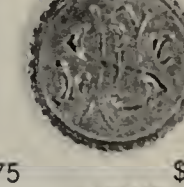
LL or LPL

Thanks!




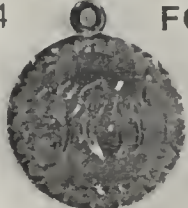

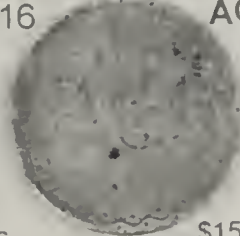

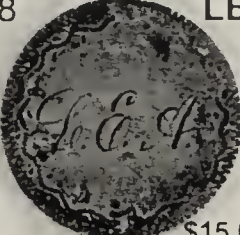


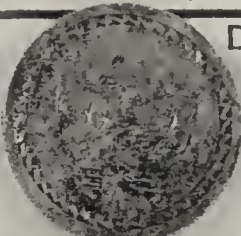




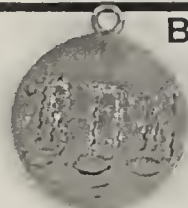





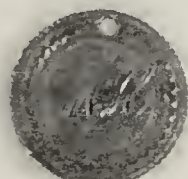




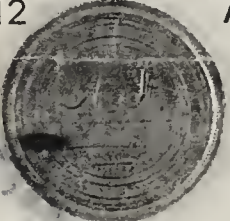


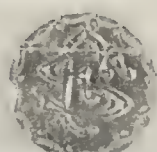
Cindy Grellman
P.O. Box 951988
Lake Mary, FL 32795



Love Token Sales

J-1  R.E. Blank Rev \$6.00	J-2  TJE 1876 \$5.00	J-3  Prefab 10c Seat. Lib \$6.00	J-4  JDM <185?> \$8.00	J-5  JRM 1884 \$7.00	J-6  JE 1875 \$7.00
J-7  HM 1882 \$7.00	J-8  GMS 1883 \$7.00	J-9  WP Brit 3 Pence \$7.00	J-10  AHM 1875 3 Pence \$7.00	J-11  GH 1902 3 Pence \$7.00	J-12  JAM Canada Half Dime \$7.00
J-13  MFG \$7.00	J-14  Blank \$7.00	J-15  MFH 1876 \$8.00	J-16  ACW 1877 \$8.00	J-17  FRE 1887 \$8.00	J-18  NNJ \$8.00
J-19  TLM Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	J-20  T.C.N. Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	J-21  WH Canada Half Dime \$8.00	J-22  FCP Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	J-23  McEC 1875 \$8.00	J-24  CHC 1877 \$8.00
J-25  MAB 1877 \$8.00	J-26  AWD 1876 \$8.00	J-27  RLH 1889 \$9.00	J-28  AH 1875 \$9.00	J-29  AW Brit Farthing \$9.00	J-30  RE Brit 4 Pence \$9.00
J-31  CBT R.E. Blank Rev \$10.00	J-32  TWD 1875 \$10.00	J-33  DLE 1876 \$10.00	J-34  CAM 1884 \$10.00	J-35  DMG Canada 10 Cent \$10.00	J-36  AR Brit 3 Pence \$10.00
J-37  JMY Canada 5 Cent \$10.00	J-38  NM R.E. Blank Rev \$12.50	H-1  CWF \$10.00	H-2  MME \$10.00	H-3  CCW \$10.00	H-4  EH 1883 \$12.00
H-5  MSB S.L. 10c \$12.00	H-6  TRG 1883 \$12.00	H-7  LCH 1875 \$12.00	H-8  WB 1884 \$12.00	H-9  FBB 1877 \$12.00	H-10  FS 1875 \$12.00

Love Token Sales

 1884 \$12.00	 Pin 25c \$13.00	 1875 \$13.00	 <1853> \$13.00	 10c \$15.00	 25c \$15.00
 25c Blank \$15.00	 25c \$15.00	 1876 \$12.00	 25c 1843 \$15.00	 25c 1876 \$15.00	 25c 1876 \$35.00
 1883 \$9.00	 25c <1853> \$13.00	 1876 \$10.00	 1883 \$8.00	 1916 Brit 3 Pence \$8.00	 3 holes 1884 \$8.00
 1882 \$8.00	 1875 \$8.00	 Foreign \$8.00	 10c \$9.00	 18?? \$9.00	 Brit 3 Pence \$9.00
 10 25c Blank \$10.00	 1862 \$12.00	 20c 1875 \$55.00	 Type - 1 \$1.00 Gold \$35.00	 Type III \$1.00 Gold \$40.00	 Type III \$1.00 Gold \$40.00

PLEASE NOTE:
SID GALE IS HANDLING
COIN SALES
AGAIN FOR THIS ISSUE



Ordering Love Tokens

Please make checks payable to:

Sid Gale
P.O. Box 970
Mandeville, LA 70470
(504) 626-3867
sidgale@charter.net

In remitting, please do not forget to
include the postage as follows:

Orders up to \$50.00 add \$1.75;

up to \$100.00, add \$3.00;

up to \$150.00, add \$3.75;

up to \$200.00, add \$4.75;

up to \$300.00, add \$5.25;

up to \$400.00, add \$7.25;

over \$400.00, add \$9.00.

Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503



Carol Harmes
5145 Admiral Place
Sarasota FL
34231

WARNING! If this box
contains an X, this is your
last issue of the Love Letter.
Please send \$10.00 ASAP





Love Letter

No. 202

Love Token Society Newsletter

August 2002



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Sarasota, FL 34231
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Love Letter Layout/Design
Mary Hammel
Manhattan, KS



William Pierce: The Poetic Counterstamper

By Craig D. Blackstone - Reprinted from *The Numismatist*, June 2002

William C. Pierce had a problem. As an apothecary in Boston in the mid 1850s, he faced intense competition. Many patent-medicine dealers resided in the city, and their advertisements often filled entire pages of the local newspapers. Consequently, they sought ever more creative ways to advertise their nostrums. Enterprising Bostonians such as Dr. Ralph Darby, Dr. J. Cheever, Dr. Moses Kidder and even Pierce himself counterstamped coins.

Pierce's counterstamping efforts were limited to one type of coin and only one product: about 10 Spanish-American 2 reales are known with the counterstamp GOOD FOR /A BOTTLE/PIERCE'S/ROSETTA/HAIR TONIC (Brunk 32060). But Pierce sought other ways to bring attention to his tonic. In a fascinating series of advertisements in the *Boston Herald*, he employed testimonials, brief tales, Biblical references and even poems!

Pierce was first identified as the purveyor of Rosetta Hair Tonic through an association with another counterstamper of coins, Dr. Darby. A 2-real piece counterstamped with both the Pierce countermark and CONSULT/DR. DARBY/BOSTON led modern-day researchers to Boston. The subsequent discovery of Pierce's testimonial advertisement for Rosetta Hair Tonic in the July 13, 1854, *Boston Herald* definitively placed his office at the corner of Pearl and Purchase Streets.

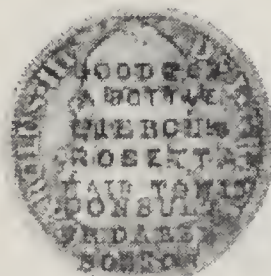
Unlike most other patent-medicine dealers, Pierce focused his energies on just this one product. Still, hair products were abundant in Boston in the 1850s, and competitors included Delight's Spanish Lustrol, Tompkins Dressing for the Hair, Perry's Hungarian Balm, Bogle's Hyperion Fluid and Bogle's Electric Hair Dye. Pierce needed something to set his Rosetta Hair Tonic apart from the rest. During the first six months of 1856, he published nearly 40 different four-line verses promoting his product.

With unrestrained enthusiasm, Pierce's poems touched on many subjects related to his Rosetta Hair Tonic, including what it could be used for, where to buy it, how much it cost and what it would do. He also cautioned readers to beware of competing hair products sold by "quacks." Unfortunately, the poems did not reveal the origin of the word "Rosetta." (The poems also referenced "William," "Susan" and "Charley," with no further elaboration.) While guiding readers to others who sold his product, including the large Boston

continued on page 3



1810 Mexican
silver 2 reales



Spanish-American
2-real coin with
countermarks for
William Pierce and
Dr. Ralph Darby

WANTED

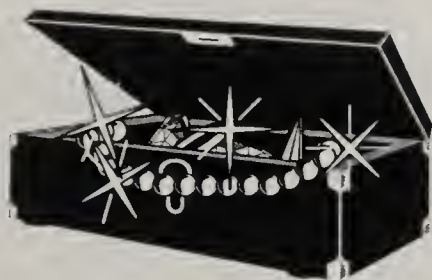
We could use love tokens with the following initials:

MJP

MP

SP

Please contact
Bob Newhouse at
rcn@ksu.edu
or 785-539-1831 if you
have these initials to sell.
Thanks!



Call for Materials for the Love Letter

We need your help!
We encourage all members
to send in articles, stories or
photos of interest to love
token collectors, or letters to
the editor. Send all materials
to:

Robert C. Newhouse
Love Letter Editor
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503
(785) 539-1831
rcn@ksu.edu

Financial Statement

General Funds

Balance as of June 15, 2002

\$6,334.39

Receipts

New Members	\$20.00
Membership Dues 2002	\$110.00
Membership Dues 2003	\$10.00
Love Token Sales	\$544.00
Interest {Bank Account} June	\$5.13
Interest {Bank Account} July	\$5.54

Total Receipts

\$694.67

Subtotal

\$7,029.06

Expenses

Check #1028 - Robert Newhouse

Graphics	\$50.00
Duplicating (Kinko's)	\$184.30
Postage	\$102.00
Misc. Postage/Intl.	\$11.60

\$347.90

Check #1029; 1030; 1031; 1032; 1033

Love Token Sellers

\$518.00

Check #1034 - UPS

\$8.05

Total Expenses

\$873.95

Balance as of August 15, 2002

\$6,155.11

Permanent Fund

Audubon Savings and Loan Association

1 year certificate of deposit

\$655.55

Membership Report

Membership As of June 15, 2002	169
New Members	2
Delinquent Members Paid	11
Membership As of August 15, 2002	182

Sidney R. Gale - Secretary /Treasurer

Welcome New Members!

#1035 William W. Berry
1102 Cerro Alto
San Antonio, TX 78213

#1036 Debbie A. Whitten
1217 Old Love Pt. Rd.
Stevensville, MD 21666

Please visit our website at: www.lovetokensociety.org.



William Pierce:
The Poetic Counterstamper
continued

apothecaries G.C. Goodwin and Redding's, Pierce predicted his tonic would drive barbers, wigmakers, and perfumers out of business. Predictably, he held himself in high regard, referring to himself in one poem as "Pierce, the famous."

Though the poems were the most entertaining aspect of his advertising campaign, he used other advertising ploys over the same six-month period, such as this short tale in the *Boston Herald* in February 1856:

Mrs. Partington and Pierce's Rosetta Hair Tonic. One morning after this elderly lady had taken from the door-steps the paper, and settled herself quietly in her easy chair, she commenced perusing its contents. All at once she drew the paper nearer her specs to be sure that she was correct in her perusal, and with a look expressive of amazement and indignation exclaimed, Pierce's Be-Getta! What nostrum won't they get up next? It's called a Tonic, too. The crying of children a Tonic! I should think it more of an astringent!" Price 25 cents. Sold by all druggists.

Mrs. Partington was a popular comic figure of the era, created in 1847 by Boston newspaperman, humorist and poet Benjamin P. Shillaber. This scatterbrained, elderly woman captured the public's affection, and her exploits were collected and published by Shillaber in 1854 as the *Life and Sayings of Mrs. Partington, and Others of the Family*. Pierce's tale clearly tried to mimic her character and manner of expression, which would have been instantly recognized. Obviously, this was meant to grab the reader's attention—an endorsement from Mrs. Partington!



Mrs. Partington

Pierce appealed to an even higher authority on several occasions, interspersing Biblical references in his ads, such as this one that appeared in April 1856:

The hair! The hair! We are informed by the good book that this is the great glory of man. Its appearance can be much improved by the use of Pierce Rosetta Hair Tonic. Sold by all Druggists.

More subtle was a reference to the Biblical "Pearl of Great Price" parable (Matthew 13:45-46) in an ad that appeared in January 1856:

Names of Streets. It may not be generally known that the names of Purchase and Pearl Streets were derived from the celebrated "Pierce's Rosetta hair Tonic;" the former from the large Purchases that have been made of it and the latter from its having been acknowledged as the Pearl of great pride. For further particulars inquire at the corner of the streets.

Of course, in the parable the pearl was of "great price," not "great pride." Pierce likely did not want to frighten off potential purchasers with the phrase "great price," but wanted to emphasize the great value of his tonic and the pride its users would feel. Cleverly, the ad also directed potential customers to his street corner.

Despite the intensity of his promotions in early 1856, Pierce's advertisements seldom were seen later in the year. City directories indicate that around 1858, after at least five years at Pearl and Purchase Streets, he moved his office to 282 Broad Street. His last directory listing in the Boston area was in 1860, when he was boarding at Roxbury. His whereabouts thereafter are unknown, and it is unclear whether William Pierce was ever aware of the tragedy that befell his beloved corner of Pearl and Purchase.

On November 9, 1872, a great fire began in an empty hoop-skirt factory at the corner of Summer and Kingston Streets. The fire spread rapidly, as eloquently described in the November 30, 1872, issue of *Harper's Weekly*: "Catching at the fatal Mansard-roofs, it went roaring and crackling along the streets, wrapping block after block in flames. The scene was one of dreadful magnificence."

Though only a few lives were lost, more than 60 acres and many hundreds of buildings were destroyed, with more than \$100 million in property damage. The corner of Pearl and Purchase was destroyed beyond recognition. According to *Harper's Weekly*, soon after the fire "a prominent 'shoe man' was heard arguing that Purchase Street, where he was standing, was the upper portion of Pearl."

Terrible as it was, the fire and its aftermath triggered a rebirth of downtown Boston. Even so, today the corner of Purchase and Pearl Streets is unremarkable, with a tailor, printer and shoe-repair shop across from a modern, high-rise office building—no evidence of its numismatic roots, and no signs praising Rosetta Hair Tonic. Perhaps the story of counterstamper and patent-medicine dealer William Pierce deserves a more fitting conclusion:

**Fame and wealth William Pierce sought
With ROSETTA for the head and hair
Poems he composed, marked coins he wrought
Proclaiming its virtues ever'where.**

**But his tonic fizzled in the end
His building burned to the ground
Leaving only the poems that he penned
And a few marked coins scattered around.**

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Q. David Bowers for his valuable suggestions and for supplying coin illustrations, and to Dr. Gregory Brunk for his helpful correspondence.

Sources

Blackstone, Craig D. "In search of Dr. Darby." *The Numismatist* (May 1998), pp. 508-10, 545-46.

Boston Herald. Various editions and dates (January 1853 through June 1857).

Brunk, Gregory G. *American and Canadian Countermarked Coins*. Rockford, IL: World Exonumia Press, 1987, pp. 57-59, 139-40.

Directory of the City of Boston. Various titles and publishers (1840-62).

Harper's Weekly (November 30, 1872), pp. 933-34.

Dr. Craig Blackstone is a neurologist at the national Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. His collecting interests include medical counterstamps and pioneer gold. He is also a member of the American Numismatic Society and the Token and Medal Society.

Triple Overlapping Initials and Their Order

by Carol Harmes

Which letters represent the first, middle, and last name on love tokens? This old question comes up from time to time. The standard answer has been that the widest initial denotes the first name and the tallest one represents the last name. After studying love tokens for quite some time, one must conclude that the answer is more complex.

In the August 2000 issue of the Love Letter, Sid Gale researched a love token bracelet formerly belonging to the Bougere family. The bracelet was made up of eight enameled Liberty Seated dimes, and especially interesting was that each set of initials belonged to a known family member. What is fascinating about the bracelet is that it shatters past ideas about lettering arrangement on love tokens.

Each love token included a "B" in the design, but the proportions varied. Three contained short wide "B" initials, and four others had tall narrow "B's." The last was neither method, but instead had two equal size "B" initials side-by-side piercing a short wide "D." The arrangements show that the placement of initials can vary with the interpretation of the engraver.

A ten coin love token band bracelet gives further insights. Nine of these coins have engraved dates of 1885. Eight of these have dates engraved in the exact same style, suggesting that the bracelet is original to the period and engraved by the same hand. Several of these love tokens bear a common "H" initial, each filled in with fine parallel lines at a 45% angle.

A book by A. Brittain, S. Wolpert, and P. Morton, *Engraving on Precious Metals*, states that the center letter can be made prominent through "colouring" the letter. "Colouring" refers to shading techniques such as fine parallel lines, which are engraved at various angles and does not refer to actual color. These lines are given different color names depending on the angle of the lines. The more common types used on love tokens are "Purpure" (purple), "Azure" (blue), and "Argent" (silver). Although named after colors, they contain no actual color or enamel.

Upon examination of the 1885 bracelet, the most prominent initial is the one with the 45% diagonal parallel lines ("Purpure" or purple). The initial of secondary importance,

probably the first name, is outlined with no interior shading (named "Argent" or silver color). The least prominent and therefore probably the middle initial, is a thin single line engraved initial. There are similar patterns in other love tokens, which suggest the initial with either diagonal (purple) or horizontal ("Azure" or blue) lines represents the last name. The less decorated initial would be the first name, and the plainest would be the middle initial.

Not all initials are in clear-cut sequence using this guide, as with the Bougere bracelet. In that case, all the initials had the same black enamel with no distinguishing differences. Some enameled love tokens are more elaborate and will mimic the qualities of their counterpart engraved pieces. For instance there are examples of enameled fine parallel lines on the prominent initial (last Name). Variations in designs occur, since love tokens were made by many craftsmen. Sometimes a prominent letter cannot be identified or multiple letters are equally decorated and compete for importance. In the final analysis, design can vary with the engraver's personal artistic interpretation.



Above: From left to right [SB] the mother, Stephanie Bougere, [HPB] a son, Horace Peter Bougere, [FAB] a daughter, Fannie A. Bougere, [CLB] a son, Clarence Louis Bougere, [PB] wife of her son Achille, Pauline Bougere, [ARB] a son, Albert Rene Bougere, [AEB] her oldest son Achille E. Bougere, and [BDB] her daughter Blanche Bougere.

Below: 1885 love token bracelet with detailed drawing of center coin. The drawing separates the initials (from left to right) in order of prominence from the most important (last name) to the least important (middle name).



Some Ways to Promote Our Hobby

By Ernie Turnes

- If you belong to a local coin club, display a love token and discuss it as part of the show and tell section of the meeting.
- or Volunteer to give a short talk about love tokens. (Chances are, no one there will know more on the subject than you.)
- or Place a love token on the auction board at the meeting
- Keep a love token in your purse or pocket. If you have a chance to talk to someone about what you collect, it's nice to be able to show an example.
- Write an article about our hobby for a club newsletter or a community newspaper. Don't like to write? Forward an article that's been in the *Love Letter*. Most editors are looking for material.
- Offer to give an informal talk at a library or senior center. No one there will know more about the subject than you.
- Place a love token exhibit at a local coin show, If you do, your dues in the LTS are waived for the following year.

Why promote the hobby? When people know that you collect love tokens they sometimes give them to you, or offer to sell them to you at a reasonable price, or tell you where they've seen one for sale. And as interest in our hobby expands, so does the value of your collection.

WANTED

- Love tokens with these names and initials:

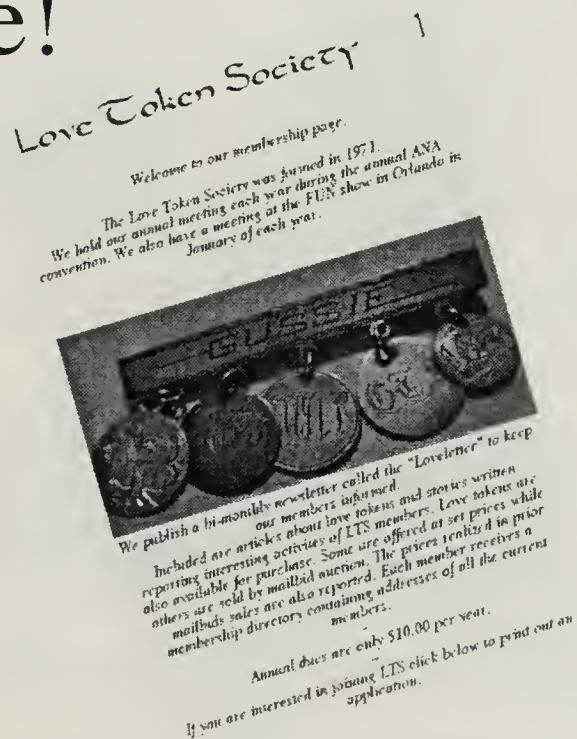
Amy, Rob, Robert, Carson, Peg, Peggy, Dorothy, CRL, CL, DET, and DT.

Will purchase or trade.








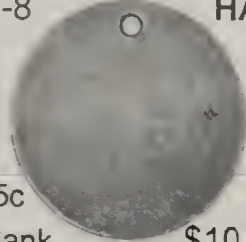

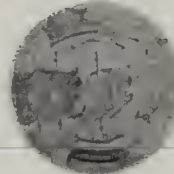



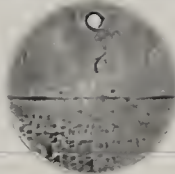

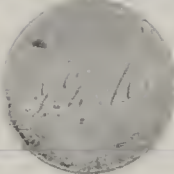







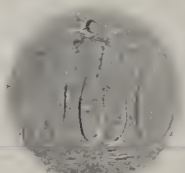













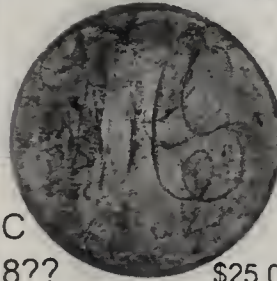


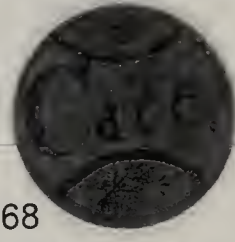
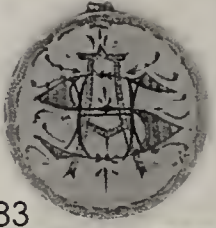












- The name of someone who will engrave a name and date on a 2002 Silver eagle (a birth piece for my new grandson Carson). Thanks.




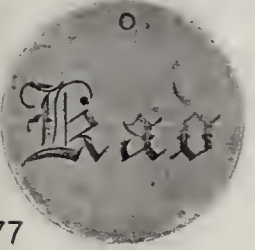










Ernie Turnes
316 Forest Valley Drive
Forest Hill, MD 21050
410-897-8983
eturnes@juno.com

Please visit our website!



www.lovetokensociety.org

G-1  1883 \$8.00	BDB	G-2  1916 3 Pence \$8.00	AIM	G-3  3 holes 1884 \$8.00	JD	G-4  1875 \$8.00	BWH	G-5  10c SEATED \$9.00	MH	G-6  18?? \$9.00	WG
G-7  3 Pence \$9.00	SA	G-8  25c Blank \$10.00	HAR	H-1  1875 \$10.00	MME	H-2  10c Blank \$10.00	CCW	H-3  <1853> \$13.00	FCW	H-4  25c Seated \$15.00	ACH
J-1  R.E. BLANK REV \$5.00	NMR	J-2  1876 \$6.00	TJE	J-3  <185?> \$7.00	JDM	J-4  1884 \$6.00	JRM	J-5  1882 \$6.00	HM	J-6  1883 \$6.00	GMS
J-7  1875 3 Pence \$6.00	AHM	J-8  1902 3 Pence \$6.00	GHO	J-9  Canada Half Dime \$6.00	JAM	J-10  Canada Dime \$6.00	MFG	J-11  Brit 6 Pence \$6.00	Blank	J-12  1876 \$7.00	MFH
J-13  1877 \$7.00	ACW	J-14  188? \$7.00	FRE	J-15  1877 \$7.00	NNJ	J-16  Brit 3 Pence \$7.00	TCN	J-17  Canada Half Dime \$7.00	WH	J-18  1875 \$7.00	McEC
J-19  1876 \$7.00	AWD	J-20  Brit. Farthing \$8.00	AW	J-21  1875 \$9.00	TWD	J-22  1876 \$9.00	DLE	J-23  Canada 10 Cent \$9.00	DMG	J-24  Canada 5 Cent \$9.00	JMY
J-25  R.E. BLANK REV \$11.50	NM	T-1  LC 18?? \$25.00	WHG/1894	T-2  LC \$25.00	(FLOWER)	T-3  2 CENT \$25.00	ANNIE	T-4  1868 2 CENT \$25.00	CATE	T-5  1883 V NICKEL \$18.00	1883
T-6  1838 H DIME \$12.00	M	T-7  1839 H DIME \$15.00	E	T-8  1842 H DIME \$13.00	LMW	T-9  1847 H DIME \$12.00	H	T-10  1848 H DIME \$15.00	MADGIE/90	T-11  <1853> H DIME \$20.00	FANNIE
T-12  <1854> H DIME \$16.00	MADGE	T-13  1856 H DIME \$14.00	M	T-14  1857 H DIME \$16.00	MABEL	T-15  1857 H DIME \$18.00	MAMMA	T-16  1858 H DIME \$16.00	HUTCH	T-17  1860 H DIME \$15.00	1884

T-18 EMMA  1861 H DIME \$16.00	T-19 CDNG/ 89-90  1862 H DIME \$13.00	T-20 AHA  1875 \$16.00	T-21 MAS  1876 \$16.00	T-22 LJS  1877 \$16.00	T-23 EWM  1885 \$16.00
T-24 AME  1889 \$17.00	T-25 JM  1891 \$18.00	T-26 CHARLEY  1871 \$20.00	T-27 WILL  1883 \$20.00	T-28 EY  <1853> 25 CENT \$16.00	T-29 MJD  <1854> 25 CENT \$16.00
T-30 ELW  1856 25 CENT \$22.00	T-31 SAM  1857 25 CENT \$17.00	T-32 CTA  1858 25 CENT \$17.00	T-33 AMC  1861 25 CENT \$20.00	T-34 SARAH  1861 25 CENT \$25.00	T-35 EGB  1862 25 CENT \$17.00
T-36 KAD  1877 25 CENT \$15.00	T-37 IS  SEATED 25 CENT \$16.00	T-38 JJF  1878 25 CENT \$18.00	T-39 ALA  1892 25 CENT \$17.00	T-40 HC  1869 25 CENT \$30.00	T-41 KH  1872 25 CENT \$25.00
T-42 LA  <1873> 25 CENT \$18.00	T-43 WG  1876 25 CENT \$17.00	T-44 JW  1876 25 CENT \$18.00	T-45 WE  1876 25 CENT \$18.00	T-46 LS  1877 25 CENT \$17.00	T-47 WBE  1877 25 CENT \$18.00
T-48 MRT  <1854> 50 CENTS \$30.00	T-49 LM  <1855> 50 CENTS \$35.00	T-50 WDB  1858 50 CENTS \$32.00	T-51 SBO  1897 50 CENTS \$30.00		
T-52 GJG  1850 T-1 GOLD \$ \$45.00	T-53 WR  T-1 GOLD \$ \$50.00	T-54 CMD  T-2 GOLD \$ \$60.00	Z-1 MA  1883 \$9.00	Z-2 MCL  1876 \$10.00	

Love Token Sales

Hello from the beautiful northwest! After the move, I am all settled in and ready to take the sales reins back. PLEASE NOTE MY NEW CONTACT INFO!
Thanks, Sid, for doing a great job as always in relief!

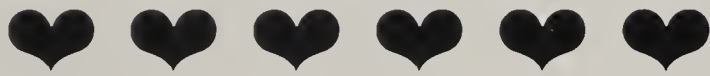
Welcome to the latest issue of the *Love Letter* and the love token sales. There are quite a few new tokens in this sale, a total of 93 in all. There are many different denominations to choose from and I hope many will find new homes! Some of the lots have new lower prices so please check them out.

NOTES FOR THIS SALE:

Lot #J-2 is priced at \$4.00; Lot T-1 and T-2 are on large cents with a flower pictorial on T-2; Lot T-5 initials are AHS and is gold plated; Lot T-49 has a pictorial wreath.

Good luck to everyone and remember if you have any amount of tokens you wish to sell, don't hesitate to call me and we will get them into the sale and out to everyone in the society.

- Steve Tompkins, LTS Sales Manager



Ordering Love Tokens

Please make checks payable to:

Steve Tompkins

P.O. Box 1946

Sequim, WA 98382

Home: (360) 457-4992

Cell: (360) 670-9688

In remitting, please do not forget to include the postage as follows:

Orders up to \$50.00 add \$1.75;

up to \$100.00, add \$3.00;

up to \$150.00, add \$3.75;

up to \$200.00, add \$4.75;

up to \$300.00, add \$5.25;

up to \$400.00, add \$7.25;

over \$400.00, add \$9.00.

Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503



Love Letter

No. 203

Love Token Society Newsletter

November 2002



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Sarasota, FL 34231
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Love Letter Layout/Design
Mary Hammel
Manhattan, KS

Pawn Shop Find Offered Back to Original Owner

by Russell Rulau - reprinted from *Numismatic News*, June 25, 2002

A Florida collector who reads *Numismatic News* bought an item in the late 1980s in a Manila pawn shop which he would like to return—free of charge—to its rightful owner or next of kin should he be deceased.

The item is a 1903-S (San Francisco mint) Philippine Islands silver peso, .900 fine, 38.1mm, KM-168, with its obverse (FILIPINAS) side shaved smooth for purpose of engraving. The engraving is professionally done and contains the name and unit of an American serviceman.

At center is a circle, within which are an odd-looking bird logo and, above that, "S (lightning bolt) D." I presume the device is a lightning bolt, but could be a slanting capital "T" above a numeral "1" with crossbar base. Above the circle in engraved neat script it reads "Lt Mike Wernette." Below the circle is a curving scroll on which in bold sans serif capitals is the inscription "1ST SPECIAL OPERATION SQ."

The anonymous Florida buyer visited Manila in the 1986-1989 time period and purchased the engraved coin in "a down-scale coin/pawn shop." He reported that Clark Field and Subic Bay were still active U.S.

bases at that time and "the old pesos were still readily available" then.

The buyer also visited the island of Leyte, staying at a hotel where gen. Macarthur and his troops came ashore in 1944, saying there is now a monument there along with photographs of actual combat.

He said he thought Lt. Wernette may have been involved in the Vietnam War and that somehow his keepsake was lost and ended up in a Manila pawn shop. He was prompted to report this intriguing personal was memento because of the number of American servicemen's coin mementos which have been reported in *Numismatic News* in recent months.

If Lt. Wernette is alive and desirous of recovering his souvenir, or if his nearest next of kin (wife, mother, child) would respond, they may redeem it by providing to the address at the end of this article documentation that he was in fact the Lt. Wernette of the 1st Special Operations Squadron.

Interested parties may write to: Russell Rulau, Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990.

This 1903-S silver peso (large size) of the philippines has been made into a war memento by Lt. Mike Wernette of the 1st Special Operations Squadron. It surfaced in the late 1980s in a down-scale Manila pawn shop and its present owner wants to return it to Wernette or his provable next of kin if he should be deceased.



A Reminder of Our Fortune

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

There would be:

57 Asians; 21 Europeans;
14 from the Western Hemisphere, north and south;
8 would be Africans
52 would be female; 48 would be male
70 would be non-white; 30 would be white
70 would be non-Christian;
30 would be Christian;
89 would be heterosexual;
11 would be homosexual;
6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States;
80 would live in substandard housing;
70 would be unable to read;
50 would suffer from malnutrition;
1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth
1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education;
1 (yes, only 1) would own a computer.

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

And, therefore...

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them, or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can read this message, you have just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

As you read this and are reminded how life is in the rest of the world, remember just how lucky you really are!

Financial Statement

General Funds

Balance as of August 15, 2002 \$6,155.11

Receipts

New Members	\$10.00
Membership Dues 2003	\$10.00
Interest {Bank Account} Aug.	\$5.68
Interest {Bank Account} Sept.	\$4.70

Total Receipts \$30.38

Subtotal \$6,185.49

Expenses

Check #1035 - Bob Newhouse (LTS #202) \$276.78

Total Expenses \$276.78

Balance as of October 15, 2002 \$5,908.71

Permanent Fund

Audubon Savings and Loan Association
1 year certificate of deposit \$655.55

Membership Report

Membership As of August 15, 2002	182
New Members	1
Deceased	3
Membership As of October 15, 2002	183

Sidney R. Gale - Secretary /Treasurer

Welcome New Members!

#1037 Alynne Skrabalak
P.O. Box 5234
Woodbridge, VA 22194

Please visit our website at:
www.lovetokensociety.org



Wanted to Buy

Love tokens with the following initials/name:

MH, M, MHN, Myra, Don, Noe

Don Noe, 38 Oakwood Way, West Windsor, NJ 08550

H-1  1875 \$10.00	H-2 10c  Blank \$10.00	H-3  <1853> \$13.00	H-4 25c  Seated \$15.00	J-1 R.E.  BLANK REV \$5.00	J-2  1876 \$6.00
J-3  <185?> \$7.00	J-4  1884 \$6.00	J-5  1882 \$6.00	J-6  1883 \$6.00	J-7 1902  3 Pence \$6.00	J-8 Canada  Half Dime \$6.00
J-9 Canada  Dime \$6.00	J-10  1876 \$7.00	J-11  1877 \$7.00	J-12  188? \$7.00	J-13  1877 \$7.00	J-14 Brit  3 Pence \$7.00
J-15 Canada  Half Dime \$7.00	J-16  1875 \$7.00	J-17  1876 \$7.00	J-18 Brit.  Farthing \$8.00	J-19  1875 \$9.00	J-20  1876 \$9.00
J-21 Canada  10 Cent \$9.00	J-22 R.E.  BLANK REV \$11.50	T-1 1838  H DIME \$12.00	T-2 1848  H DIME \$15.00	T-3 1862  H DIME \$13.00	T-4 1883  V Nickel \$15.00
T-5 1883  V Nickel \$15.00	T-6 1883  V Nickel \$18.00	T-7 1892  \$14.00	T-8 1877  \$16.00	T-9 1885  \$16.00	T-10 1891  \$18.00
T-11 1877  25 CENT \$15.00	T-12 SEATED  25 CENT \$16.00	T-13 1878  25 CENT \$18.00	T-14 1861  25 CENT \$20.00	T-15 1876  25 CENT \$18.00	T-16 <1854>  25 CENT \$16.00
T-17 1900  25 CENT	Alice 1900  25 CENT	LJ 1900  25 CENT	Ma 1898  25 CENT	MEY 1895  25 CENT \$60.00	T-18 1857  25 CENT \$17.00
T-19 1857  25 CENT \$17.00	T-20 1875  25 CENT \$18.00	T-21 1875  25 CENT \$18.00	T-22 1875  25 CENT \$17.00	T-23 1875  25 CENT \$18.00	T-24 1876  25 CENT \$18.00

T-25  1876 25 CENTS \$18.00	T-26  1877 25 CENTS \$18.00	T-27  1877 25 CENTS \$18.00	T-28  1877 25 CENTS \$18.00	T-29  1877 25 CENTS \$18.00	T-30  1877 25 CENTS \$18.00
T-31  Barber 50 CENTS \$35.00	T-32  1877 50 CENTS \$35.00	T-33  1858 50 CENTS \$30.00	T-34  <1855> 50 CENTS \$40.00		
T-35  <1854> 50 CENTS \$35.00	T-36  1877 50 CENTS \$40.00	T-37  Canada 50 CENTS \$38.00	Z-1  1858 50 CENTS \$25.00		
Z-2  SWISS 2 FRANC \$25.00	Z-3  25 CENTS \$12.00	Z-4  1883 \$9.00	Z-5  1876 \$10.00	Z-6  1892 \$9.00	Z-7  1883 \$10.00
Z-8  1851 \$10.00	Z-9  <1853> \$8.00				

Letter Placement on Love Tokens

Love token collectors often marvel at the intricacy of the engravings on coins and the skill of execution on these miniature works of art. What is often not contemplated is the thought that goes into designing a love token even before the engraver's tools actually touch the coin. Sometimes this involves repeated sketches on paper before the final design unfolds.

Love token collectors usually think of engravings of initials as simple and ordinary, as opposed to more "interesting" pictorials, when in fact fancier initialed love tokens may require more time to produce than some pictorials. There is geometry and symmetry to be considered when arranging initials. The center of the coin must be pinpointed and then the initials or monogram centered on it. Careful attention and planning are required to insure that the spacing between the initials looks right and the spaces to the outer edges of the coin are even. Because some letters need more space than others, equal measurements may not work and the designer has to exercise artistic liberty. If this is not accomplished the design will appear lopsided.

Writing letters seems simple, but being precise and uniform is another matter. Engravers must learn numerous styles of letters with exact and distinctive proportions. Letters must be plumb and level with each other or slanting to the same degree. Once engraved letters are mastered individually, spacing is the next challenge. Some letters can be spaced closer than those that are square and upright. The spacing must actually be made uneven to make it appear even. It is up to the trained artist's eye to plan the spacing, as it cannot be done through measurements alone.

Complexity of layout with initials varies greatly. Simple letters, either script or block, placed side by side are the easiest types to engrave. Monograms require much more design skill. Script letters intertwine with loops and scrolls that weave the letters together into a cohesive unit. The challenge is to create a composition: graceful flow of line and attractive spacing using appropriate and sometimes quite different letter shapes. The intricacies of these beautiful designs can make them difficult to decipher.

Double and triple overlapping initials are a style largely unique to Victorian love tokens. These types present many design challenges, since the letters are sandwiched one on top of another. Careful planning is required to determine which parts of letters will seem to pass over or under the others. Engraved texture and variations in height and width help to preserve the integrity of each letter. Serious design challenges can occur when there are two of the same letter or the letter shapes are too similar. One inventive solution is to rotate similar letters at either a 90 degree or 45 degree angle, which helps to separate the letters in the design.

Pictorials, by contrast, are freer, more fluid, and usually asymmetrical. They can flow directly from the engraver's imagination, and any errors in planning or placement can be corrected after the fact with the addition of extra lines or elements. Initials, for all their apparent precision and rigidity, still display a great deal of creativity with variations in type, layout, texture, pattern, undulating lines, scrollwork, fancy flourishes, and of course different combinations of letters representing the unique human signatures for which they were intended.



Gold love token with the initials "GB" enameled in black. Notice how the "G" passes over and under the "B". The effect produces a three dimensional quality.



Silver love token with "RJF" enameled in blue. Note the 45 degree rotation of the "R" and "J". If the engraver had tried to overlay these letters without the rotation, he would have been challenged by the exactly overlapping main stem of the "J" and "F" as well as the cross bar of the "F" and "R". The interesting solution is both aesthetically pleasing and functional for reading the letters.

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of the Love letter I placed an item entitled, "Wanted", requesting (1) the name of someone who would make me a Birth love token for my new grandson (my first grandchild); and (2) love tokens with his initials. While I thanked them individually, I also want to publicly thank those who sent me information about engravers and the wanted coins. It's good to have such information about the engravers, although I may not use it at this time. The reason is that soon after I submitted my Wanted item I went to a local jeweler and he smoothed down the reverse of a 2002 Silver eagle and engraved carson R. Lenz/Born/August 6, 2002 in a script style. Because the smoothing down process caused the metal to be so bright, I have the coin in a paper envelope so it will tone and look more natural (sulfur in some paper causes silver to tone).

I recognize that, by traditional standards, the piece is not a love token because it was machine engraved and it is not on a circulating coin. But if you judge it by the spirit of love tokens, it qualifies.

— Ernie Turnes

Love Tokens for Sale

Welcome to the latest issue of the Love Letter and the love token sales. Thank you one and all for your support in the last issue's sales.

NOTES FOR THIS SALE: Lot #T-17, all 5 quarters were once on a bracelet together but some enterprising dealer cut them up for ease of selling. It is hoped that someone will someday reunite these pieces as they once were. Lot #T-18 has a gold wash over it. Please note the new rates for shipping as postage has gone up again. We only charge to cover our costs so as to not take away from the society funds, not to make money on the shipping. Hopefully this will enable us to continue to cover the costs.

Last sale I had to send back several checks sent in for love tokens, as the pieces were already sold. Please make sure you contact me for availability and a total due BEFORE sending any money for lots. For those of you who had any trouble contacting me, I am sorry. My e-mail address was left off of the last issue but it remains the same as before: smt115@aol.com. Please do not hesitate to call me on my cell phone as that is the best way to get in touch with me.

These were a few comments as to the prices on some of the lots in last issue. Please look again and you will see that the quality of the pieces was much better than some in the past, as well as many different denominations were represented. Also a few were coins on rarer dates. Suffice it to say those pieces were all sold even with the higher prices. Let's face it, folks, times are changing and love tokens are becoming more popular as can be attested in places such as eBay and at major shows.

Good luck to everyone and remember if you have any amount of love tokens you wish to sell, don't hesitate to call me and we will get them into the sale and out to everyone in the club.

- Steve Tompkins, Love Token Sales Manager

Ordering Love Tokens

Please make checks payable to:

Steve Tompkins

P.O. Box 1946

Sequim, WA 98382

Home: (360) 457-4992

Cell: (360) 670-9688

smt115@aol.com

In remitting, please do not forget to include the postage as follows:

Orders up to \$50.00 add \$2.00;

up to \$100.00, add \$3.25;

up to \$150.00, add \$4.00;

up to \$200.00, add \$5.00;

up to \$300.00, add \$5.50;

up to \$400.00, add \$7.75;

over \$400.00, add \$9.25.

Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503



Love Letter

No. 204

Love Token Society Newsletter

December 2002



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Love Letter Layout/Design
Mary Hammel
Manhattan, KS

Happy Holidays!

by Carol Harmes

This *Love Letter* marks the coming of Christmas, followed by New Year's Eve, and the end of another year. With Christmas close at hand, thoughts full of sugarplums danced in my head. Well not really, I'm exaggerating. Actually, thoughts for the December issue of the *Love Letter* brought to mind Christmas and New Year's love tokens, as well as holidays for the rest of the year.

Some collect love tokens with engraved dates and years, but may never know what many of these dates commemorate. On occasion, however, the engraved date will be a recognizable holiday such as 12/25/95 or spelled out as Merry Christmas or Merry Xmas. Pictured below is the year in review commemorated with love tokens.

New Year's

"Happy New Year GMV 1883" engraved on a Liberty Seated dime dated 1875.



Valentine's Day

Cupid with heart engraved on an 1854 gold dollar.



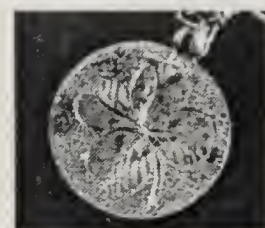
Cupid "2000" carved on a 1935 Buffalo nickel. Work by modern-day hobo nickel artist Ron Landis.



Heart pattern engraved on a 1942 Australian six pence.

St. Patrick's Day

Clover design engraved "BFJ" on reverse.



The clover shape has a horseshoe on the obverse and is engraved "MK" on the reverse. The edge has partial reeding remaining, suggesting that this was cut down from a coin.



Easter

"Easter 1865" is engraved with a geometric border on a Liberty Seated half dollar.

April Fool's Day

"Will Stewart to Ben Hollbrook April 1st 1873" engraved on an Italian (Sardinia) five Lira coin dated 1827.



Fourth of July



"July 4th W 1865" engraved on an 1845 Liberty Seated dime. With the Civil War at an end, freedom and independence was on everyone's mind.

continued on page 3



Condolences

Noticed was received that Sam Bettis (LTS #52) has passed.

Treasurer Note:

I will be mailing the 2003 dues invoices in early January. If you would like to help save LTS some postage expenses I request that you just mail your \$10.00 dues for 2003 to:

Sid Gale

P.O. Box 970

Mandeville, LA 70470

Make your check payable to LTS or Love Token Society. I will not send an invoice if I receive your payment.

Thank you- *Sid Gale*



A Different Format

I recently purchased a love token with a format slightly different than any I had seen since I started collecting (about eight years). Perhaps this format is familiar to others and only new to me. The host coin is an 1858 Seated Liberty half dollar with toning that you'd expect on a coin that was minted 144 years ago and not cleaned. Unlike most love tokens, neither side of this piece has been smoothed down. On the obverse the letters WFR are engraved across Ms. Liberty above her waist. Feb 3 1848 is inscribed below that. On the reverse the letters V and A are engraved in the field on either side of the eagle's head. Below that, Jy 2, 1851 is engraved across the eagle's body and wings.

The piece raises several questions. Are these the initials of two lovers along with their birth dates? If they were lovers, why engrave their birthdays? Or were these two important dates in their relationship? And was this the only coin engraved this way or was one made for each lover?

I wonder if any members of our club have seen a piece of this format. Perhaps this one or its twin. If so, I'd like to hear from you. (316 Forest Valley Dr., Forest Hill, MD 21050 or eturnes@juno.com)

— *Ernie Turnes*



Please visit our website at:
www.lovetokensociety.org

Financial Statement

General Funds

Balance as of October 15, 2002 \$5,908.71

Receipts

New Members	\$100.00
Membership Dues 2004	\$40.00
Book Sale	\$51.00

Total Receipts \$191.00

Subtotal \$6,099.71

Expenses

Check #1036 - Bob Newhouse (Love Letter #202)	\$276.78
Check #1037 - FUN Dues	\$15.00

Total Expenses \$291.78

Balance as of December 5, 2002 \$5,807.93

Permanent Fund

Audubon Savings and Loan Association	
1 year certificate of deposit	\$655.55

Membership Report

Membership As of August 15, 2002	182
New Members	10
Deceased Member	1
Membership As of December 5, 2002	191

Sidney R. Gale - Secretary /Treasurer

Welcome New Members!

#1038 Andy Garrison 2629 El Capitan Dr. Sanford, FL 32773	#1043 Steve Berglund 1257 4th Ave N.W. Milaca, MN 56353
#1039 Max Studley 1565 N. Wildflower Dr. Apt 305 Casa Grande, AZ 85222	#1044 Stokes Houck 146 Canterbury Rd Charlotte, NC 28211
#1040 Robert Irving 1402 Rt #9 South GLP #132 Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210	#1045 Jim Drenon 863 El Centro Ave Napa, CA 94558
#1041 Richard L. Kawzinski P.O. Box 814 Millbrook, AL 36054-0017	#1046 Lane Brunner 4303 Mountain Path Dr Austin, TX 78759
#1042 James Haller 118 Resevar St Shrewsberg, MA 01545	#385 (Reinstate) Joan Bitterman 3709 Riviera Ave Las Vegas, NV 89107

Happy Holidays! *continued from page 1*



"July 4 B. Bolton S. 1881" engraved on the obverse and "EMH" engraved on the reverse.

Hobo nickel with Santa Claus enameled in red and white.



How sad that these people died on holidays and the memories of that parting will be revisited each year at a time that should be joyous. After mentioning major holidays as well as some minor holidays, some attention should be given to other holidays that are more personal. Everyone has a birthday and most of us have anniversaries or have friends and family that celebrate anniversaries. Pictured below are a couple of examples.

Columbus Day

"1492" engraved on one side and "1892" on the other. This commemorated the 400th anniversary of Columbus and may have even been engraved at the Columbian Exhibition.



Box dollar made from an 1877 Trade dollar. Interior engraved "A Merry Xmas 1898."



Birthday

"19th Birthday 1882" engraved on the obverse and "ANNA" engraved on the reverse of this quarter sized love token.



Halloween

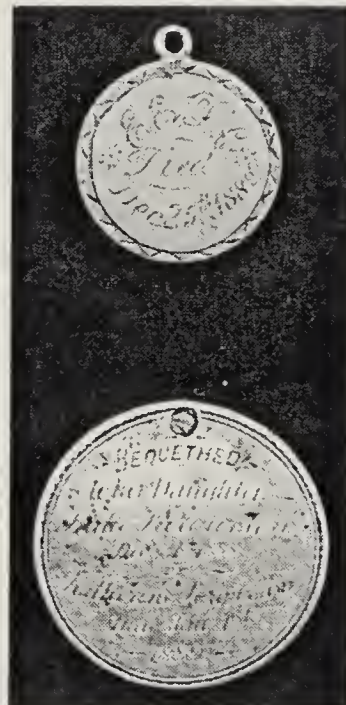
"Hallow Eve 1903" engraved on a Great Britain six pence.

Witch design engraved on an Indian cent.



Sometimes holidays come mixed with grief. Many people can get depressed around the holidays for various reasons. Below are two examples memorialized on coins.

"EEDC Died Dec. 25th 1889" engraved on a German 10 Pfennig coin dated 1876."



"Bequeathed to her to her Daughter Katie Furgurson Dec. 31st 1888 BY Katherine Furgurson Died Jan. 1st 1889" is engraved on an 1877 Liberty Seated half dollar.

Anniversary

Pictorial love token with a tree engraved "Presented to Yetta & Elias on the 50th Anniversary of their Wedding from their Brother Leon AUG. 24th 1883." The host coin is a \$20 Liberty with an altered 1833 date.



May health and happiness accompany all of your holidays and with all these occasions, come gifts of love tokens. Happy Holidays!



Thanksgiving

"Thanksgiving Nov. 25. 97" engraved on an 1886 Liberty Seated dime.

Christmas Eve

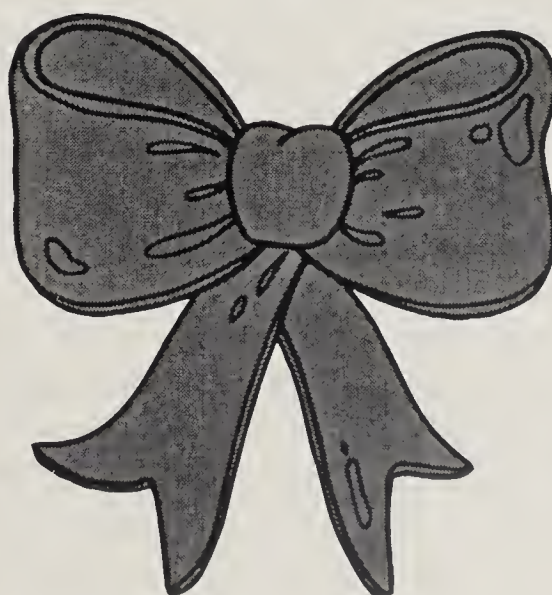
"Dec. 24 1892" engraved on an 1892 Barber dime.



Christmas

Pin with "Hattie" engraved on the top bar. "Christmas 95" engraved on the obverse and "Brooklyn Ave M.E.S.S." engraved on the reverse.

"George Prout Dec. 25. 70" engraved in the field of a Liberty Seated dollar.



**Annual LTS
Meeting
at the FUN Show**



**Saturday,
January 11
2 p.m.**

**Room 231C
Orange Country
Convention Center**

Coin Alterations "Very Collectible"

Guest commentary by Fred L. Reed III - Reprinted from *Coin World*, Monday, May 27, 2002

Although I have known the editor of *Coin World* for more than 20 years and greatly admire her stewardship, I believe her comments in a recent editorial, that the U.S. government should ban alterations to U.S. coin designs, deserve a further review.

I could not disagree more vigorously with that editorial view. Frankly this position makes no numismatic sense, and other collectors should oppose it too.

For me it's really simple. Alterations of U.S. coin designs are very collectible and have a storied numismatic past:

- 1) Coins have been countermarked for ages, and these messages are often important sources of economic or political information; even an example of the rare 1787 Brasher's doubloon bears such a mark.
- 2) Coins have been engraved with messages and names as love tokens for more than a century, and this has become a very popular collecting specialty.
- 3) Coins have had stickers pasted to them and circulated as propaganda pieces, or as advertising media.
- 4) There is a wonderful specialty called "hobo" nickels, which are re-engraved Buffalo nickels, and there is even a specialty society devoted to collecting these minor art works.
- 5) Coins have been encased in holders as advertising souvenirs and fobs, compressing designs.
- 6) They have been cut in half as magician's coins, or larger coins have been cut and hollowed out as containers.
- 7) They have been incorporated in jewelry; fields have been cut away from devices as pins; Buffalo nickels have been cupped as buttons, tie tacks have been fashioned with posts mounted to coin reverses obscuring designs.
- 8) Many of us old-timers remember the Kennedy cents that were issued in profusion in the 1960s, with images of the late president impressed beside Abe on Lincoln cents. *Coin World* carried ads for them for years.
- 9) Some of the most delightful souvenirs of the world's fairs in Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco and New York were pop-out coins, i.e., U.S. coins struck with a die that embossed a portrait of Columbia or Lincoln through the coin, obliterating the design.

10) Overstrikes and re-coining are also a revered part of our hobby, whether the new image is a Civil War token die struck over an Indian Head cent, a Lincoln cent struck over a Roosevelt dime, or an early silver dollar struck over a Pillar dollar or some other foreign coin altering the original design.

11) For decades coin rolling machines that transfer images to cents and nickels have been a staple of fairs, amusement parks and arcades, and the rolled coins a favorite item in collections.

12) Now coins are being decorated in other ways, including printing colorful and artistic designs on them, which as I see is part of a great numismatic tradition. These printed coins are commemoratives, like the Elvis Presley imprint on a Tennessee State quarter, for example.

Virtually all the above specialized numismatic items are characterized as "exonumia" and many of us specialize in them. When a former *Coin World* staff member, Russ Rulau, coined the term "exonumia" he intended that term to mean something like "similar to coins, but standing slightly outside them" as an exoskeleton on a crustacean envelopes the animal. That's exactly what these recent printed commemorative coins and their historic forebears do. They mark history from great events down to lesser, more personal ones. Think of them as coins with a distinct difference.

All this hasn't even mentioned alterations to paper money, which also have a lengthy history. I'll mention just a few, which include overprinting currency with propaganda messages or advertising. A leading numismatic auction house displays a venerable work of art, a large portion of which is bits of pieces of various types of real U.S. currency. A recent phenomenon is imprinting notes with "Where's George" data so they can be tracked in circulation. Last year the Society of Paper Money Collectors published an entire issue of its award-winning magazine on short snorters, notes that had been signed with autographs and various other messages.

What I'm saying here is not heavy. It's merely common sense. The law the *Coin World* editor cites prohibiting alterations of U.S. coins and currency was meant to keep people from committing fraud by raising the value of a coin or note. That's necessary. We don't need another law that prohibits the kinds of activities described here, which don't defraud.

Are we to suddenly eschew all these desirable types of exonumia described above because the original image has been replaced by another design? Surely not. That's my last word, What's yours?



Happy Holidays



Letter to the Editor from Sid Gale

Several times over the years Barbara Newhouse has called and asked me to help her locate a love token with certain initials engraved on them. Each time she wanted them to present as a special gift to someone in the family or to a friend getting married. When my son Mike announced that he was engaged to a lovely young lady named Nina, Barbara's thoughtful idea came to mind and I decided to do it also. I finally found one with the initials "NG" on eBay!!! At the rehearsal dinner, after all of their friends had told their stories and made their toasts, it was my turn to speak. I presented the love token to Nina and, based on several comments, most found it both interesting and touching. If you have a wedding in your family on the horizon and want to do something special, I suggest you find and present a love token. Thank you, Barbara, for the idea.

I am not a very good public speaker, but I have included below what I said or had in mind to say.

"Many wonderful things have been said about this young couple this evening. I would like to take this opportunity to speak on behalf of "The Gale family" to express our wishes of happiness to both of them.

Through the years people have chosen a variety of different trinkets and charms to serve as "tokens of love" to express their love or affection to someone special in their lives. Some of the more popular were thimbles, pin cushions, rings, and carved spoons. During the Victorian period the very familiar

valentine card was introduced. The period between the 1860's and early 1890's also marked the time when it was popular to use engraved coins as love tokens.

Times were a lot different then. Wages for a day's work was about 10¢. Shopping centers, as we know them, and big flashy jewelry stores like Zale's didn't exist. DeBeers wasn't marketing diamonds for engagement rings. If a young man wanted to get married he might simply take a coin, usually a dime, out of circulation and have his family name initial and his prospective wife's first initial engraved on it. If she accepted it they were considered engaged.

I am a collector of love tokens and, believe me, they are sometimes very hard to find. After searching for five months I was fortunate to find one with the initials "NG." The initials have been engraved on an 1891 Liberty Seated Dime. Therefore, about 110 years ago this coin was engraved to commemorate a person's or family's love to someone special whose initials were "NG." The coin has a hole drilled through it suggesting it was once worn as a chain or bracelet.

Nina, I would like to present this to you as a "token of love" or "welcome" to the Gale family. I have taken the liberty of mounting it in a bezel and putting it on a chain. Mike, please assist me by hooking the chain.

Finally, we wish you both a lifetime of happiness together."

Annual Meeting at FUN and Elections

This year marks the passing of two years for those who have served LTS as officers. Although the positions of editor and LT sales are technically appointed positions, I like to consider them as officers. Many thanks go out to these dedicated individuals. All officers have agreed to stay in office for another two-year term.

A ballot is included below with an area for write-in candidates. The ballot should be received by **January 6, 2003**. Please send ballots to **Sid Gale** (contact information is below) to cast your vote or you can call Sid. If there are any volunteers or nominations to fill any of the above positions, the names will be submitted for voting at the FUN show meeting. A vote will also be taken at the FUN show meeting held on Saturday, January 11 at 2 p.m. in Room 231C.

This year there will be a **Show and Tell** for the meeting: each attending member should bring a few favorite love tokens for display and be prepared to say why they are favorites, what makes them special, or perhaps an unusual story about acquiring them. I am counting on full participation to make this an interesting meeting, but please check jealousy at the door (just kidding, but at the same time, we love tokens, we also wish they were ours!).

♥ LTS OFFICER BALLOT ♥

President:

☐ Carol Harmes

Vice President:

☐ Pat Hammond

Secretary/Treasurer:

☐ Sid Gale

Write-Ins:

☐ Office: _____
Candidate: _____

☐ Office: _____
Candidate: _____

Volunteer Positions are:

Newsletter Editor - Bob Newhouse

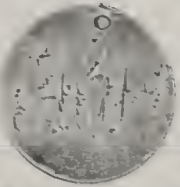
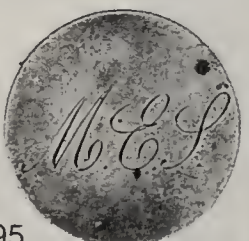
Love Token Sales - Steve Tompkins

Please send completed ballots to:

Sid Gale
P.O. Box 970
Mandeville, LA 70470











or e-mail: sidgale@charter.net

or call (985) 626-3867

J-1  R.E. BLANK REV \$5.00	J-2  1876 \$6.00	J-3  <185?> \$7.00	J-4  1884 \$6.00	J-5  1882 \$6.00	J-6  Canada Dime \$6.00
J-7  1877 \$7.00	J-8  188? 2 Cent \$7.00	J-9  1877 6 Pence \$7.00	J-10  Canada Half Dime \$7.00	J-11  1876 10 Cent \$7.00	J-12  Canada 10 Cent \$9.00
J-13  R.E. BLANK REV \$11.50	S-1  FEB/20 1885 2 Cent \$20.00	S-2  1895 6 Pence \$11.00	S-3  1901 6 Pence \$13.00	S-4  1853 Half Dime \$12.00	S-5  Canada Dime \$9.00
S-6  R.E. Blank Re \$12.00	S-7  R.E. Dime \$8.00	S-8  <1874> \$9.00	S-9  1875 \$13.00	S-10  1887 \$8.00	S-11  1890 \$8.00
T-1  1883 V Nickel \$14.00	T-2  1885 \$16.00	T-3  1872 \$9.00	T-4  1875 \$9.00	T-5  1884 \$14.00	T-6  1884 \$14.00
T-7  1857 Quarter \$15.00	T-8  1857 Quarter \$17.00	T-9  1876 Quarter \$16.00	T-10  1877 Quarter \$18.00	T-11  1877 Quarter \$18.00	T-12  1878 Quarter \$18.00
T-13  1877 Quarter \$15.00	T-14  SEATED 1877 Quarter \$16.00	T-15  1878 Quarter \$18.00	T-16  1861 Quarter \$20.00	T-17  1877 Quarter \$18.00	T-18  <1854> Quarter \$16.00
T-19  1900 25 CENT	Alice  1900 25 CENT	LJ  1900 25 CENT	Ma  1898 25 CENT	MEY  1895 25 CENT \$60.00	T-20  50 CENT \$30.00

<div>T-21</div> <div><div><div>Dec 25, 1869</div><div>Aug 22, 1871</div></div><div></div><div>Seated</div><div>50 CENTS</div><div>\$30.00</div></div>	<div>T-22</div> <div><div>BERTIE</div><div></div><div>Seated</div><div>50 CENTS</div><div>\$35.00</div></div>	<div>T-23</div> <div><div><div>REL</div><div>Z-1</div><div>PICKLE</div></div><div></div><div><1853></div><div>25 CENTS</div><div>\$15.00</div></div>			
<div>Z-2</div> <div><div>CMP</div><div></div><div>DIME</div><div>\$10.00</div></div>	<div>Z-3</div> <div><div>L</div><div></div><div>DIME</div><div>\$10.00</div></div>	<div>Z-4</div> <div><div>U</div><div></div><div>Canada Half Dime</div><div>\$11.00</div></div>	<div>Z-5</div> <div><div>JL</div><div></div><div>Canada DIME</div><div>\$10.00</div></div>	<div>Z-6</div> <div><div>JDMMc</div><div></div><div>1892</div><div>\$9.00</div></div>	<div>Z-7</div> <div><div>CH</div><div></div><div>1883</div><div>\$10.00</div></div>
<div>Z-8</div> <div><div>SADIE</div><div></div><div>1851</div><div>\$10.00</div></div>	<div>Z-9</div> <div><div>JWE</div><div></div><div><1853></div><div>\$8.00</div></div>	<div>Z-10</div> <div><div>WHH</div><div></div><div>Canada Half Dime</div><div>\$9.00</div></div>			

AUCTION

# 1	REMEMBER	# 2	CB	# 3	ER	# 4	ET	# 5	BLANCHE
	ME/ML		Canada Quarters		<1854> Half		Seated Half		Canada 50 Cents
1861	Quarter								
# 6	SE	# 7	LAH	# 8	JER	# 9	RV		
	1889		Dollar		1921		1877		
Dollar				Dollar		Trade Dollar			
# 10									
									
WW2 Bracelet made from Australian coins with working clasp									

Love Tokens for Sale

Hello all, and welcome to another issue of the Love Letter. We sold almost everything from the last sale so this is mostly fresh material. Look for more new material coming in the next issue. Thank you all for your participation!

Notes for the Sale: Any token with just a date listed you can assume it is on a US dime. All others will be listed as to what denomination and country they are from. Lot S-6 and S-9 both have working pinbacks. Lot T-2 has a raised stylized rim. Lot # T-19, all 5 quarters were once on a bracelet together but some enterprising dealer cut them up for ease of selling. Lot T-21 was made for a death token but the name was never entered just the dates.

Along with this sale, we have a Mail bid auction. The terms of the sale are listed below. Lot#2 is a matching pair of cufflinks. Lot#5 has a working pinback. Lot #7 and #8 are on Morgan dollars. Lot#10, all the coins are dished and there is no engraved pieces, however the double heart cutout has been planed off on the reverse.

I hope to see some of you at the FUN show. Be sure to bring any material you have for sale, or just to show off! Happy Holidays!

LOVE TOKEN MAIL BID SALE CLOSES ON FEB 1ST

TERMS OF THE SALE:

1. No buyers fee. Seller pays \$.50 per coin sold.
2. Sellers may have placed a reserve bid.
3. All winning bids over \$15 will be reduced to approximately 10% above the second highest bid. No bids under \$15 will be reduced.
4. All bids must be received by 8:00 PM (PST) on the closing date. Phone and E-mail bids are encouraged, contact information needs to be included. The only information given will be the second highest bid.
5. Winning bidders will be notified as soon as the sale closes. Buyer must send payment, including postage and insurance, then coins will be sent out upon receipt of payment.

Happy Bidding! Steve Tompkins

Ordering Love Tokens

Please make checks payable to:

Steve Tompkins

P.O. Box 1946

Sequim, WA 98382

Home: (360) 457-4992

Cell: (360) 670-9688

smt115@aol.com

In remitting, please do not forget to include the postage as follows:

Orders up to \$50.00 add \$2.00;

up to \$100.00, add \$3.25;

up to \$150.00, add \$4.00;

up to \$200.00, add \$5.00;

up to \$300.00, add \$5.50;

up to \$400.00, add \$7.75;

over \$400.00, add \$9.25.

Love Letter

Love Token Society Newsletter



Dr. Robert C. Newhouse
5840 Tuttle Cove Road
Manhattan, KS 66503